



## COMBATING ANTISEMITISM FOSTERING JEWISH life



## AGENDA

### 2<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU STRATEGY ON COMBATING ANTISEMITISM AND FOSTERING JEWISH LIFE

BRUSSELS  
1 – 2 June 2022

*On 5 October 2021 the European Commission adopted the first-ever EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life. In full respect of national competences, the strategy sets out the policy framework for the Commission for the period 2021-2030.*

*In the Council Conclusions on combating racism and antisemitism of 4 March 2022, adopted under the French Presidency, Member States once more committed to developing national strategies against antisemitism, and endeavour to do so by the end of 2022.*

***The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Working Group will aim to further support the development of these national strategies and focus on relevant topics that Member States are encouraged to cover in them.***

*The recently adopted Conclusions and the EU Strategy amongst others call for developing a **common methodology to record antisemitic incidents** and to increase the efforts to ensure the **security of Jewish communities**, as well as around religious institutions, places of worship and confessional schools, including during cultural or religious events. The working group includes dedicated sessions on these topics.*

*Furthermore, during the working group the **antisemitic narratives and disinformation used as justification of the war by Russia**, when it alludes to Nazi leadership in Ukraine or to genocide caused by Ukrainians, will be discussed, and an update on the situation of the Ukrainian Jewish community will be provided.*

***We look forward to seeing you in person in Brussels. There will be no online option.***



## WEDNESDAY, 1 JUNE 2022

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**13:00 – 14:00**      **Welcome and Registration, including a walk-in-lunch**

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**14:00 – 14:30**      **Welcome** by **Katharina von Schnurbein**, *Coordinator on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life, European Commission*

**Keynote** by **Vice-President Margaritis Schinas**, *Vice-President for Promoting our European Way of Life, European Commission*

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**Introduction of the agenda** by **Jacki Davis**, *Moderator of the day*

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**14:30 – 15:30**      **Combating antisemitic narratives and disinformation used by Russia to justify its unprovoked invasion of Ukraine**

*In this session speakers will discuss the antisemitic narratives and disinformation used by Russia as justification for its unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. Russia has falsely claimed that it sought to “denazify” Ukraine, and that the Ukrainian government is committing a genocide in Russian-speaking regions. This rhetoric has been widely used in official discourses and in Russian media. The misuse of terminology by Russia fuels hatred and antisemitism and has a corrosive effect on the collective historical memory and on the resilience and cohesion of our democratic societies. This narrative has emerged in a time that Holocaust denial, distortion and trivialisation were already on the rise. Speakers will reflect on ways to effectively combat the false narratives and disinformation used to justify the war, and the impact they have on antisemitism and Jewish communities worldwide. Furthermore, an update of the situation of the Jewish community in Ukraine will be provided. Ukraine is home to up to 200,000 Jews, making it the fourth largest Jewish community in Europe and the eleventh largest in the world.*

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**Moderation** by **Jacki Davis**

**Introduction** by **Marek Siwiec**, Director for European Affairs at the Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Center, Ukraine

**Bertrand de Longueville**, European Commission, Team Leader of the Text Mining Analysis Competence Centre of the Joint Research Centre (JRC)

**Speakers:**

- **Martyna Bildziukiewicz**, Head of East Stratcom Task Force, EEAS
- **Ilan Cohn**, Director of HIAS Europe
- **Lesław Piszewski**, President of the Jewish community of Warsaw

**Q & A and Plenary discussion**

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**15:30 – 16:00**      **Comfort Break**

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**16:00 – 17:50**      **Session I. Tour-de-table with updates from Member States and Jewish communities on national strategies and other actions**

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*During this session all Member States will be asked to give an update on the developments of national strategies and other actions in their country to combat antisemitism. Member States committed in the 2018 and 2020 Council Declarations on combating antisemitism to “preventing and fighting all forms of antisemitism through new national strategies or measures under existing national strategies and/or action plans on preventing racism, xenophobia, radicalisation and violent extremism.” In the Council Conclusions on combating racism and antisemitism of 4 March 2022, adopted under the French Presidency, Member States promised to develop national strategies against antisemitism by the end of 2022.*

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**Moderation by Jacki Davis**

**Keynote speech by Ms. Sarah Schlitz**, Secretary of State for Gender Equality, Equal Opportunities and Diversity

**Tour-de-table with Member States**

**Q & A and Plenary discussion**

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**17:50 – 18:00** **Concluding remarks by MEP Nicola Beer** (Germany, Renew), Vice-President of the European Parliament, Special envoy on combatting religious discrimination, including Antisemitism, and Chair of the Working group against Antisemitism of the European Parliament

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**18:00** **End of Day 1**

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**19:00** **Dinner at the Jewish museum of Belgium and guided tour of the temporary exhibition “Sol LeWitt – Wall Drawings, Works on Paper, Structures (1968 – 2002)”**

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## THURSDAY, 2 JUNE 2022

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**08:30 – 09:00**      **Welcome and Registration**

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**09:00 – 09:20**      **Opening session**

**Welcome** by **Katharina von Schnurbein**

**Keynote speech** by **Ambassador Jitka Látal Znamenáčková**, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the Political and Security Committee of the EU

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**09:20 – 09:25**      **Introduction of the agenda** by **Jacki Davis**, *Moderator of the day*

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**09:25 – 10:45**      **Session II. The security needs of the Jewish community**

*This session will focus on the security needs of the Jewish community and on what the EU and Member States can do to meet those needs. According to the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, 71% of Jewish people avoid carrying or displaying items that could identify them as Jewish. 38% of Jews have considered emigrating because they do not feel safe as Jews in the EU. Protecting and fostering Jewish life is a key pillar in the EU Strategy and in the recently adopted Conclusions, Member States committed to increase the efforts to ensure the security of Jewish communities, as well as around religious institutions, places of worship and confessional schools, including during cultural or religious events.*

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**Moderation** by **Jacki Davis**

**Introduction** by **Yolanda Gallego-Casilda Grau**, Head of Unit - HOME.D.3 - Prevention of Radicalisation, European Commission

**Panel discussion with:**

- **Ophir Revach**, CEO of the Security and Crisis Center by the European Jewish Congress
- **Mikolaj Wrzecionkowski**, ODIHR's Adviser on Combatting Anti-Semitism
- **Johan Tynell**, Chief Security Officer, Jewish community of Denmark
- **Daria Grouhi**, Director Kuehn Malvezzi Architekten

**Q & A and Plenary discussion**

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**10:45 – 11:15**      **Comfort Break**

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**11:15 – 12:15**      **Session III – Developing a common methodology on recording antisemitic incidents**

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The recently adopted Conclusions and the EU Strategy amongst others call for developing a common methodology to record antisemitic incidents. On 18 and 19 May, Austrian Federal Minister for EU and Constitutional Affairs, Ms. Karoline Edtstadler, hosts a high-level meeting of Special Envoys and Coordinators Combating Antisemitism and experts in the field of antisemitic hate crime recording. During this session results of the conference will be shared and it will be discussed how we can further cooperate towards a common methodology on recording antisemitic incidents.

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### **Moderation by Jacki Davis**

**Introduction** by **Antonio Martino**, Director at the office of the “Austrian-Jewish cultural heritage” in the Federal Chancellery

### **Speakers:**

- **Henri Nickels**, Policy Coordinator, Institutional Cooperation and Networks Unit, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)
- **Jakub Král**, Director of Security of the Jewish Community of Prague
- **Benjamin Steinitz**, Executive Director Federal Association of Departments for Research and Information on Antisemitism (Bundesverband RIAS e.V.).

### **Plenary discussion**

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**12:15 – 12:50**      **“Discussion under six eyes” between representatives of Member States and representatives of national Jewish communities**

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### **Questions:**

1. What is the most burning issue in the fight against/prevention of antisemitism in Member States?
  2. How can we strengthen the security efforts?
  3. How can we improve the recording of antisemitic incidents and how can we contribute to the development of a common methodology?
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**12:50 – 13:00**      **Concluding remarks** by **Katharina von Schnurbein**

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**13:00**              **End of Day 2**

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