



Working Group on Antisemitism

3RD MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COUNCIL DECLARATION ON THE FIGHT AGAINST ANTISEMITISM

VIA VIDEO-CONFERENCE
17 June 2020, 13:30 – 17:30

AGENDA

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- 13:30 – 13:50** **Registration and log in**
- 13:50 – 14:00** **Welcome and introduction of agenda**
- Katharina von Schnurbein*, Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life, European Commission
- 14:00 – 14:15** **Opening remarks by *Margaritis Schinas***, Vice-President for Promoting our European Way of Life, European Commission
- Progress on the fight against antisemitism and next steps*
- Remarks by *Věra Jourová***, Vice-President for Values and Transparency, European Commission:
- Fundamental Rights and Disinformation*
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- 14:15 – 15:15** **Panel 1: Online disinformation, conspiracies and antisemitism**
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The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a spike of conspiracy myths online, not only targeting Jews, but consistently employing antisemitic belief and blaming Jews for inventing and spreading the virus or profiteering from it. Already in March 2020, antisemitic hate speech online increased by 30% compared to November 2019. According to the 2018 FRA survey, even before the pandemic, Jewish Europeans assessed antisemitism as being most problematic on the internet and social media. Terror attacks like Halle, Pittsburgh and Christchurch show, that the avenue from conspiracy myths to hate crime is short. Jewish communities are worried what will come once confinement is over, and the economic recession becomes more tangible. Conspiratorial beliefs act as

a gateway to more extremist worldviews. As part of prevention of radicalisation work, countering conspiracy myths directed at ethnic minorities or religious groups, including against the Jewish community, needs to be part of European and national efforts to counter disinformation, misinformation, and foreign influence operations. This session will discuss the ongoing spread of conspiracy myths online and inform about EU initiatives in this field.

15:15 – 15:20 **Coffee break**

15:20 – 15:30 **The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of antisemitism**

15:30 – 16:30 **Panel 2: Supporting victims of antisemitism – data, training and support services**

Too often antisemitism remains invisible due to under-reporting and under-recording. Proper data collection on antisemitism is essential to guide policies and better understand the sources of antisemitism including political ideology. The proper identification and recording of antisemitic incidents is also the first step in ensuring that offences are investigated and, where necessary, prosecuted and sanctioned. Although most Jewish Europeans (71 %) are aware of an organisation in their country that could help them if they experience antisemitism, awareness varies greatly between Member States. Most Jewish Europeans (73%) would turn to a Jewish community organisation for support, rather than to an official body. The Victims Rights' Directive provides for common rules relating to victims support, including for victims of hate crime. Victim support is crucial to the recovery of victims, their families and their communities. Receiving adequate support can also influence the victims' decision to report antisemitic incidents and foster their cooperation with law enforcement and judicial authorities. Ensuring justice, protection and support for victims of antisemitism requires taking into account the specificity of the phenomenon, as well as the ability to address the individual experiences of victims. This panel will explore ways to better support victims of antisemitism and display best practices.

16:30 – 16:50 **“Discussion under six eyes” between representatives of Member States and representatives of national Jewish communities**

Questions:

1. What systems are in place in your country to enable the reporting of antisemitic incidents? To what extent do these systems capture incidents below the threshold of a criminal offence?
2. To what extent is the IHRA working definition used in data collection, recording systems and training?
3. What type of specialised victim support services exist in your country, and who is providing it? How are these services funded?
4. What gaps are there in your country with regard to specialised victim support services?

16:50 – 17:20 **Progress on national strategies on combating antisemitism**

European Commission support for security of Jewish communities

17:20 – 17:30 **Concluding remarks**

Michaela Küchler, Special Representative for Relations with Jewish Organisations in the Federal Foreign Office, German Presidency of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance

Katharina von Schnurbein
