



COMBATING ANTISEMITISM FOSTERING JEWISH life



Message by Commissioner Magnus Brunner on the occasion of Rosh HaShanah 2026

As Jewish citizens across Europe and worldwide prepare to welcome Rosh Hashanah, I extend my heartfelt wishes for a Shanah Tova on behalf of the European Commission.

Rosh Hashanah calls us to reflect on our actions over the past year, to learn from the challenges we have faced, and to strive to do better. As you pray in the synagogue and celebrate with family and friends, may these reflections accompany you.

As part of the EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life (2021-2030), we focus a lot on fostering Jewish life, because it is a cornerstone of the European identity. It preserves millennia of rich cultural heritage, promotes intercultural dialogue and strengthens democratic values. It also combats antisemitism by replacing prejudice with understanding, helping Jewish communities feel safe and valued for their ongoing contributions.

The foundations of our democratic and pluralistic societies in Europe remain strong. Jewish life is an integral part of the fabric that defines Europe, and we will protect it. This past year has been challenging, and we share your concerns and fears. Antisemitism in all its forms is completely unacceptable and continues to affect Jewish communities across public spaces, workplaces, universities, schools and European streets. The war in the Middle East and Iran has fueled antisemitic attacks in Europe, leaving many Jewish communities feeling less safe, while new technologies amplify antisemitic hate and distort facts at unprecedented speed and scale.

We will rigorously implement our EU Strategy and work closely with all EU Member States, partner countries, Jewish communities and civil society organisations. We will drive lasting structural change through research and academic cooperation and to do so we are launching an EU Research Hub, NERON – the Network for European Research on Antisemitism and Jewish Life. We also develop innovative technological approaches to confront antisemitism and have with TikkunTech a first Hackathon to make use of AI and technology to foster Jewish life and counter antisemitism. With regards to culture, the first Simone Veil Prize will be awarded this winter to projects shedding light on Jewish culture and life. And concerning Holocaust remembrance, we continue to develop ESHM, the Network of European Sites of Holocaust Memory, which will award membership to the first sites at the end of the year.

I am strongly committed to continue to counter antisemitism in all its forms and manifestations, while fostering Jewish life and ensuring that Jews can safely celebrate their festivals in Europe, as they have done for over two millennia.

My best wishes for the New Year 5787. Shanah Tova U'Metukah!