



COMBATING ANTISEMITISM FOSTERING JEWISH life



AGENDA

1st MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU STRATEGY ON COMBATING ANTISEMITISM AND FOSTERING JEWISH LIFE

VIA VIDEO-CONFERENCE
14 – 15 December 2021

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, which is comprised of three pillars:

- 1 – Preventing and combating all forms of antisemitism**
- 2 – Protecting and fostering Jewish life in the EU**
- 3 – Education, research and Holocaust remembrance**

The strategy also seeks to place the EU firmly in **the lead of the global fight against antisemitism**, complementing measures within the EU with international efforts along all the three pillars.

As stated in the strategy “To support the implementation of this strategy and help coordinate Member States’ efforts the Commission will formalise the ad hoc ‘Working Group on combating antisemitism’ as a permanent structure that brings together Member States, Jewish communities’ representatives and other stakeholders.”

The strategy includes key actions the Commission will take and actions the Commission encourages the Member States to take, including the development of national strategies by the end of 2022. **The 1st meeting of the Working Group on the implementation of the EU strategy will focus on the development of the national strategies and how this will be supported through the EU strategy.** Focus will be on areas Member States can cover in their national strategies and (targeted) actions they can include, exchanging best practices between Member States and on facilitating dialogue between the Member States and Jewish organisations and communities.



TUESDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2021

08:30 – 09:00 Registration and log in

09:00 – 09:30 **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*

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

09:30 – 10:50 **Session I. The new EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life**

This session will outline the strategy and its main actions and address how Member States, Jewish communities, civil society organisations and international organisations can support its implementation and use it as a basis for the development of their national strategies and actions by 2022. The strategy addresses preventing and combating all forms of antisemitism; protecting and fostering Jewish life in the EU; and education, research and Holocaust remembrance. Amongst others, the strategy proposes measures to step up cooperation with online companies to curb antisemitism online, to better protect public spaces and places of worship, to set up a European research hub on contemporary antisemitism and create a network of sites 'where the Holocaust happened'. Member States are, amongst other, also encouraged to prosecute online antisemitic hate speech, support civil society organisations combating antisemitism, work with EU agencies such as Europol and CEPOL, raise awareness about Jewish life and traditions, safeguard Jewish heritage and raise awareness against Holocaust denial.

Presentation of the strategy by **Katharina von Schnurbein**

Reactions from:

- **Dr. Ariel Muzicant**, *Vice-President of the European Jewish Congress*
- **Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt**, *President of the Conference of European Rabbis*

Presentation of the structural reforms support for Member States by **Raluca Painter**, *Head of Unit - Unit.04 Labour Market, Health and Social Services, DG REFORM, European Commission*

Plenary discussion

10:50 – 11:00 **Next steps foreseen during French Presidency** by **Amb. Delphine Borione**, *Head of French Delegation to IHRA, Ambassador for Human Rights responsible for international issues relating to the Holocaust, looted property and remembrance, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, France*

11:00 – 11:10 **Follow-up on the Malmö International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism** by **Andrés Zanzi**, *Head of Secretariat – Senior adviser, Secretariat for the Swedish IHRA Presidency*



At the Malmö International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism – Remember ReAct in October 2021, Member States have made pledges to combat antisemitism and ensure Holocaust remembrance. The pledges can feed into national strategies and thereby form a starting point for their development and implementation. The pledges made by the participants will be followed up during the Swedish Presidency of the IHRA, March 2022 – February 2023.

11:10 – 11:25 **Comfort Break**

11:25 – 12:20 **Session II. Developing national strategies by 2022**

This session will provide an overview of where Member States stand with the development of national strategies, discuss the links between strategies to combat antisemitism and anti-racism strategies, and exchange best practices of strategies that have been developed or are currently under development.

Member States have 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.” As stated in the EU strategy, these national strategies should be adopted by the end of 2022 and will be assessed by the Commission by the end of 2023.

Introduction by Katharina von Schnurbein

Speakers:

- **EU Anti-racism Action Plan** by **Michaela Moua**, *Coordinator on combating racism, European Commission*
- **State of play national strategies** by **Henri Nickels**, *Policy Coordinator, Institutional Cooperation and Networks Unit, EU Agency for Fundamental Rights*
- **National strategy against antisemitism and for Jewish life** by **Dr. Felix Klein**, *Federal Government Commissioner for Jewish Life and the Fight against Antisemitism, Germany*
- **Network Overcoming Antisemitism (NOA) EU-funded project** by **Robin Sclafani**, *Director of CEJI-A Jewish Contribution for an inclusive Europe*

Plenary discussion

12:20 – 12:50 **Breakout sessions: ‘Discussion under six eyes’**

This session will provide Member State representatives and representatives of national Jewish communities from the same country the possibility to discuss the design and development of national strategies and how actions included in the EU strategy and in the pledges made at the Malmö Forum can feed into that.

12:50 – 13:00 **Concluding remarks** by **Daniel Höltgen**, *Special Representative of the Secretary General on antisemitic, anti-Muslim and other forms of religious intolerance and hate crimes, Council of Europe*

13:00 **End of day 1**



WEDNESDAY, 15 DECEMBER 2021

08:30 – 09:00 Registration and log in

09:00 – 09:30 Opening session

09:00 – 09:05 **Welcome** by **Katharina von Schnurbein**

09:05 – 09:15 **Keynote** by **Laetitia Avia**, *Member of the National Assembly for the eighth constituency of Paris, France*

09:15 – 09:20 **Introduction of the agenda** by **Jacki Davis**, *Moderator of the day*

09:20 – 12:45 **Session III. In depth discussion on the main pillars of the strategy**

The three sessions will focus on the key actions the Commission will take and the specific actions the Commission encourages the Member States to take and which should be included in their national strategies. The EU strategy takes a holistic approach through its three pillars that together aim to cover all aspects relevant for combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life. In this session, the pillars will be discussed in more depth, to see how the policies and actions, such as setting up a network of trusted flaggers and Jewish organisations, improving the recording of antisemitic incidents, cooperate with equality bodies, and create a network of sites ‘where the Holocaust happened’ can be relevant and inspiring for the development and implementation of the national strategies.

09:20 – 10:30 **Pillar 1 - Preventing and combating all forms of antisemitism**

This pillar firstly addresses a number of prerequisites to develop an effective strategy, such as ensuring and mobilising funding, appointing a special envoy/coordinator and adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of antisemitism. Secondly, it focusses on the policies aimed at combating antisemitic hate crime and hate speech offline and online, fighting antisemitic discrimination, and on how organisations themselves can lead by example.

Introduction by **Wester Meijdam**, *Policy Officer, European Commission*

Panel discussion with:

- **Gijs van Beek**, *Co-founder of the community website for urban youth marokko.nl, Co-founder of Textgain and Coordinator of Textgain’s new European research centre on online hate, disinformation - European Observatory of Online Hate*
- **Jenny Havemann**, *CEO & Founder of GIIN – German Israeli Innovation Network*
- **Mike Whine**, *Special Consultant, World Jewish Congress*
- **Tamás Kádár**, *Deputy Director (Head of Legal and Policy) of EQUINET - European Network of Equality Bodies*

Q & A Session

10:30 – 10:45 **Comfort Break**



10:45 – 11:45

Pillar 2 - Protecting and fostering Jewish life in the EU

In the second pillar, security is identified as the prerequisite for fostering Jewish life in the EU. In this session, the focus will be on policies and actions to actively foster Jewish life in the EU and increase knowledge and understanding about it. Lastly, the pillar focusses on protecting Jewish heritage, which due to the extermination of Jewish communities during the Holocaust was often left unattended or unused.

Introduction by Katharina von Schnurbein

Speakers:

- **Outlook: Czech EU Presidency** by **Robert Řehák**, *Special Envoy for Holocaust, Interfaith Dialogue and Freedom of Religion, Head of the Czech Delegation to the IHRA, Czech Republic*
- **Current challenges of Jewish life** by **Susanne Holmgaard Hansen**, *Political Advisor of the Jewish Community in Denmark*
- **Tackling antisemitism in universities** by **Elias Dray**, *President of the European Union of Jewish Students*
- **Local Jewish life** by **Zuzanna Radzik**, *Vice-President of the Forum for Dialogue, Poland*

Plenary discussion

11:45 – 12:45

Pillar 3 - Education, research and Holocaust remembrance

The third pillar sets out actions for Holocaust remembrance as well as research and education about Jewish life and antisemitism in Europe. Taking into account necessary changes in the coming years and the need of finding new forms of remembrance, in an age where the last survivors of the Holocaust are passing away, and make sure their stories are not forgotten and retold accurately in a digital age and multicultural society. Finally, the pillar touches upon combating Holocaust denial, distortion and trivialisation.

Introduction by Pascale Falek, Policy Officer, European Commission

Speakers:

- **Holistic approach on Holocaust Remembrance** by **Antonio Martino**, *Head of the newly established staff office “Austrian-Jewish cultural heritage” in the Federal Chancellery, Austria*
- **Actions on education at national level** by **Amb. Victor Micula**, *Special Representative for Combating Antisemitism, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Romania*
- **Preserve testimonies and promote remembrance** by **Wojciech Soczewica**, *Director General of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation*
- **Innovative ways to fight Holocaust denial and distortion** by **Karel Fracapane**, *Programme specialist in the Education Sector of UNESCO*

Plenary discussion

12:45 – 13:00

Concluding remarks by Katharina von Schnurbein

13:00

End of Day 2