



16th EU-Israel High Level Seminar on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life



Brussels, 8 June 2026

Press RELEASE on the occasion of the 16th EU – Israel High Level Seminar on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life

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On 8 June 2026, the European Commission and the State of Israel held their 16th EU-Israel High-Level Seminar on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life in Brussels. The European Commission and the State of Israel reaffirm their full support for European Jewish communities in these troubled times. Committed to combating all forms of antisemitism, they agreed to strengthen their cooperation, in particular on the challenges and opportunities of AI, research on contemporary antisemitism and Holocaust remembrance.

Since 2007, the EU-Israel Seminar brings together European and Israeli authorities, civil servants, policymakers, experts, international and non-governmental organisations to discuss best practices and measures to combat antisemitism and other forms of hatred. As part of its first-ever EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life adopted in October 2021, the EU committed to upgrade this forum to a High-level Seminar, with a focus on operational follow up. Today's meeting was opened by Magnus Brunner, European Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration, and addressed with a video message by Gideon Sa'ar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel. Since October 7 2023, antisemitic incidents across Europe have increased sharply, with heightened security concerns for Jewish communities and growing polarisation within European societies. Jews are being attacked, are confronted with hatred on the streets, on campus, at work. Jewish children are among the few children in Europe who, for their own safety, must go to school behind security fences and protected by the police or army.

Many European Jews don't feel safe showing their identity in public anymore. We are heartbroken to hear that our fellow Jewish citizens increasingly withdraw from public life and engaging in society to protect themselves.

Antisemitism is a threat to our democracy and security. A society in which Jews cannot live openly and safely is one in which fundamental rights are under threat for everyone.

Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration, Magnus Brunner, stated in his keynote speech:

"Antisemitism is a threat to Jews but also to our democracy. It erodes the foundation of society: equality, human dignity and the rule of law. We stand unwaveringly committed for fostering a flourishing Jewish life in Europe. The EU Strategy is at the heart of our efforts to addressing antisemitism at all levels of government and society, online and offline."



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Today we discussed addressing and countering antisemitism across all relevant policy areas. The Commission is implementing its EU Strategy with rigor and works closely with all EU Member States, among which 24 have adopted national strategies to counter antisemitism. The Commission has significantly increased funding, supporting initiatives of Jewish communities and organisations as well as other civil society organisations and Member State authorities.

The two sides reaffirmed that the IHRA working definition on antisemitism is the leading most effective tool to combat antisemitism, given its rights-based and victim-centered approach.

The following topics were discussed as part of the Seminar: main threats faced by Jewish communities; antisemitism, Holocaust remembrance and Jewish life in education and research; challenges and opportunities of artificial intelligence in countering antisemitism.

Background:

The [EU-Israel High-Level Seminar on combating racism, xenophobia and antisemitism](#) is held regularly since 2007. It reflects the importance attributed by both the EU and Israel to the fight against antisemitism and other forms of hatred and serves as a major opportunity for dialogue.

The first-ever [EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life](#) was adopted by the European Commission on 5 October 2021. It includes initiatives in the area of addressing antisemitism online, data collection of incidents, security, fostering Jewish life, education, research, and Shoah remembrance. As part of the strategy the EU committed to upgrade today's meeting to a High-level Seminar, with a focus on operational follow up.

EU Member States have committed to develop national strategies against antisemitism, to endorse and use the IHRA working definition of antisemitism and to appoint national coordinators for combating racism and antisemitism. They unanimously adopted in [2024 the Council Declaration on fostering Jewish life and combating antisemitism](#), in [2022 the 'Council Conclusions on combating racism and antisemitism'](#), in [2020 'Council Declaration on mainstreaming the fight against antisemitism across policy areas'](#) and in [2018 'Council Declaration on the fight against antisemitism and the development of a common security approach to better protect Jewish communities and institutions in Europe.'](#)

The EU Antisemitism Strategy includes 90 actions, focusing particularly on areas where EU-level coordination adds value, such as: Europe wide actions to address antisemitism online; ensuring Holocaust commemoration including through [ESHEM](#), education, and support for sites; a research hub on contemporary antisemitism and Jewish life and culture; or data collection of incidents. In addition, the Commission is developing a strong regulatory framework to address illegal content including antisemitism online, reinforced by a network of organisations specialized on antisemitism online. The Commission is addressing the rise of radicalization online and the exploitation of digital



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technologies by extremists network through its EU Agenda on Preventing and Countering Terrorism, part of the broader ProtectEU Internal Security Strategy, published in February 2026. In addition, we launched this year the first Simone Veil Prize, to be awarded to initiatives that use Jewish cultural heritage to foster dialogue, build understanding and bring communities together.

Following the alarming rise of antisemitism globally, the Commission co-signed a Statement co-signed by special envoys and coordinators on combating antisemitism on 12 May 2026¹.

[Link to EU newsletter](#)

[More about the European Commission's fight against antisemitism](#)

¹ [Joint Statement_SECCA_2026.pdf](#)