



# Working Group on Antisemitism

## 1<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COUNCIL DECLARATION ON THE FIGHT AGAINST ANTISEMITISM

### ***SECURITY FOR JEWISH COMMUNITIES, INSTITUTIONS AND CITIZENS***

**20 June 2019**

Berlaymont building (Schuman room), Rue de la Loi 200, 1049 Bruxelles

*Following the unanimous adoption of the "Council Declaration on the fight against antisemitism and the development of a common security approach to better protect Jewish communities and institutions in Europe" on 6 December 2018, the European Commission has created an ad-hoc working group on antisemitism within the existing High-level Member States expert group on Racism and Xenophobia to follow-up on the declaration.*

*In line with the commitments of the [Council declaration](#), the working group will focus during three sessions on the following themes: security of Jewish premises and communities (20 June 2019), education of the Holocaust, Jewish life, Antisemitism and the Shoah remembrance (11 and 12 December 2019), and data collection of incidents beyond hate crime, using the IHRA definition (spring 2020). The aim is to support Member States to adopt on national level by the end of 2020 "a holistic strategy to prevent and fight all forms of antisemitism as part of their strategies on preventing racism, xenophobia, radicalisation and violent extremism".*

*In FRA's [Second survey on discrimination and hate crime against Jews in the EU](#), 40% of Jewish people indicated that they have thought about leaving their country in the past five years and on average only every second respondent regards their government's efforts to respond to the security needs of Jewish communities as sufficient. Moreover, 9/10 Jewish Europeans perceive a rise in antisemitism and every second European regards antisemitism as a problem in their country ([Special Eurobarometer 484](#)).*

*Security of its citizens is a primary responsibility of the state. The first working sessions thus focuses on the pressing issue of security of Jewish communities and premises. It brings together representatives of national law enforcement authorities and national special envoys on antisemitism with representatives of Jewish communities from the respective countries and Jewish umbrella organisations. In preparation of the meeting we have asked information from the Jewish communities regarding their security situation which will be made available to the respective member states as a basis for discussions.*

*The aim of the session is to exchange best practices provided by national and international actors as well as the Jewish community in order to support Member States' efforts to ensure safety and security for their Jewish communities and premises. Member States will be presented with concrete tools to develop holistic strategies for security where they do not exist already.*

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**08:30 - 09:25**      **Welcome coffee and registration**

**09:30 – 09:45**      **Welcome by Emmanuel Crabit**, Director for Fundamental Rights and Rule of Law, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers, European Commission

**Opening by Věra Jourová**, European Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality

**09:45 - 10:30**      **Introduction of the working group and agenda**  
*Katharina von Schnurbein*, European Coordinator on Combating Antisemitism

**Priorities and objectives of the Council Declaration on antisemitism**

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**10:30 – 12:00**      **1. Panel - Effective risk assessment**

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*Jewish citizens and institutions have become victims of deadly terror attacks and violence across Europe. These attacks, committed by terror organisations or far-right, far-left or Islamist extremists, don't happen in a vacuum and often not without signs. Jewish communities face different and particular risks in each EU Member States depending on many factors. A comprehensive risk assessment by law enforcement and security agencies on European, national and local level helps identifying threats, vulnerabilities and possible consequences of an attack on site and for people and enables public authorities and Jewish communities to take targeted precautionary measures. A joint risk assessment done in collaboration between law enforcement authorities and the Jewish community can be the most effective approach to assessing the community's security risks and preventing attacks. This session will provide an overview of current threat sources for Jewish citizens and institutions, and how risk assessment is an essential part in protecting Jewish communities and the wider society. Sources of antisemitism target Jews but also other communities and foundations of our democratic, diverse societies. Participants will exchange on the essential building blocks of ensuring a comprehensive risk assessment.*

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**12:00 – 12:30**      **“Discussion under six eyes” between Member States representatives and the representative of their respective Jewish community**

**Q:** *Has a comprehensive risk assessment already taken place on national and local level? Has the Jewish community been consulted in the process? Does the risk assessment include the wider spectrum of all possible targets such as events and institutions linked to Israel, Holocaust memorial sites, Jewish supermarkets, museums and culture centres?*

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**12:30 – 14:00**      **Lunch break**

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**14:00 – 15:10**      **2. Panel: Prevention through trust – How to further enhance cooperation among Jewish communities as well as between law enforcement and Jewish communities?**

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Collaboration between Jewish communities and law enforcement faces many challenges, including on how to secure trust for actions on national and local level. Only every second Jewish European believes that his/her Member State responds to the security needs of the Jewish communities. Similarly recent attacks worldwide against religious premises proved once more the worrying spread of hatred and that several communities are increasingly exposed to security threats. This session will look at the shared responsibility between Member States institutions and other actors to build-up trust between law enforcement and Jewish communities, and how law enforcement and security providers can build-up trust between different communities, in order to prevent tensions and foster collaboration between these actors in the area of security. It will discuss ways to include and involve Jewish communities, and make security infrastructure relevant and accessible.

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**15:10 – 15:30**      **“Discussion under six eyes” between Member States representatives and the representative of their respective Jewish community**

**Q:** *Is a joint forum to address security challenges in place for Jewish communities, law enforcement and other relevant communities? Is the sharing of expertise between Jewish communities with other communities encouraged and fostered? What are the concrete obstacles for trust-building measures?*

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**15:30 – 15:45**      **Coffee break**

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**15:45 – 17:15**      **3. Panel: Regaining and strengthening the feeling of security – physical protection, law enforcement cooperation, training and support**

*A police officer in front of the synagogue, a metal detector at the community centre entrance. Although unfortunately necessary visible physical protection mechanisms are strengthening the feeling of security of Jewish citizens and deter potential attackers. Adequate training for law enforcement and judiciary to sensitise civil servants to expressions of antisemitism, the risks for Jewish communities and debunking myths about Jewish communities are essential to contribute to better prevention and recording of antisemitic hate crimes and to shift towards a victim-centred approach. This session will look at concrete measures of protection from different Member States as well as training possibilities to increase through it the feeling of security.*

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**17:15 – 17:45**      **“Discussion under six eyes” between Member States representatives and the representative of their respective Jewish community**

**Q:** *Which security measures are already in place? Are you taking part in a training scheme? How much of the security spending is paid for by the state? What is the share of security spending of Jewish communities?*

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**17:45 – 18:00**      **Conclusions**

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**19:00 – 21:00**      **Dinner – L’Atelier Européen, rue Franklin 28, Bruxelles**