A SYSTEMIC CRISIS: Antisemitism in Europe

Dear European Council President António Costa, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, Members of the European Council, and Leaders of Europe,

Antisemitism in Europe has reached crisis levels. The anti-Jewish riots in Amsterdam must be a wake-up call to Europe about the pervasiveness of this problem. Since October 7, an unprecedented surge in hatred has targeted Jewish communities across the continent. The numbers are staggering: a 1000% increase in antisemitic incidents in France in 2023, 250% in Germany, 245% in the Netherlands, and similarly alarming spikes across Europe. These figures are not just statistics; they reveal the contours of a systemic crisis threatening the very presence of Jews in Europe and the European way of life.

For years, European institutions and individual nations have taken important steps to counter antisemitism. We laud the critical work being done by the European Commission's Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life as well as the creation of an EU strategy to combat antisemitism in 2021. We welcome the decision that the coordinator will now be placed under the Secretariat General. However, resources, means and political support to bolster this work must be scaled up significantly, given the extent of the crisis. New mechanisms to address growing antisemitism — including the enforcement and implementation of existing laws and national strategies — must become an EU-wide priority, driven from the highest levels of leadership.

The upcoming European Council meeting offers an opportunity for decisive action: we urge EU leaders to place antisemitism at the center of their agenda and commit to a holistic response. Specifically, we call on the European Council to prioritize combating antisemitism as a strategic issue for Europe and to mandate the European Commission, under President Ursula von der Leyen's leadership, to develop and implement urgent measures to address this crisis at an EU-wide level.

Antisemitism today is not an isolated problem; it is deep-rooted, explosive, and urgent. It must be treated with the same seriousness and resolve as other existential crises Europe has faced, such as the war in Ukraine, the energy crisis, or the climate emergency. This is not a time for complacency — it is a time for decisive leadership. Europe must act swiftly and decisively to stem this crisis before it is too late.

We stand ready to partner with you to help shape a productive discussion at the EU Council meeting. Thank you for your consideration and for your urgent attention to this matter.

Signed :

Ted Deutch, CEO of American Jewish Committee

Maram Stern, Executive Vice President of the World Jewish Congress

Ariel Muzicant, President of European Jewish Congress

Daniel S. Mariaschin, CEO of B'nai B'rith International

Emma Hallali, European Union of Jewish Students

Yonathan Arfi, President of the CRIF (Conseil représentatif des institutions juives de France)

Yossef Murciano, President of the French Union of Jewish Students

Yves Oschinsky, President of Coordinating Committee of Jewish Organizations in Belgium

Professor Alexander Oscar, President of the "Shalom" Bulgarian Jewish organization

Klara Kołodziejska-Połtyn, President of The Union of Jewish Communities in Poland

Faina Kukliansky, President of the Lithuanian Jewish (Litvak) Community

Petr Papoušek, President of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Czech Republic

Alla Jakobson, Chairman of the Jewish Community of Estonia

Michał Trębacz, Acting Director of Jewish Historical Institute

Agata Patalas, Principal of the Zuzanna Ginczanka Jewish High School in Warsaw

Arkadijs Suharenko, Chairman of the Jewish Community of Latvia

Sylwia Kędzierska-Jasik, President of the Jewish Community of Warsaw

Noemi di Segni, President of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities

Jigal Markuszower, President of the Organization of Jewish Communities in the Netherlands

Hanna Veiler, President, German Union of Jewish Students (JSUD)

Aron Verständig, Chair of the Official Council of Swedish Jewish communities.

Jeppe Sevel-Lilholt, President of The Jewish Community of Denmark

Silviu Vexler, President of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania

David Obadia Chocron, President of Federation of Jewish Communities of Spain

David Botelho, President of Comunidade Israelita de Lisboa/Jewish Community of Lisbon.

David Saltiel, President of the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece, President of the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki and President of the Holocaust Museum of Greece

Lasse Schauder, Federal Chairman, Junges Forum (Young Forum) of the German Israeli Society (DIG)

The **Tikvah Institute**, Germany

Alon Meyer, President of MAKKABI Germany

Volker Beck, President, Deutsch-Israelische Gesellschaft e.V. (German-Israeli Society)

NES Noi Ebrei Soclialisti (We, Socialist Jews) association, Italy

Gherush92 Committee for Human Rights, Italy

Luigi De Salva, President of Religions for Peace, Italy

Bruno Gazzi, President of Federation of Italy-Israel Associations

Dominique Reynié, General Manager of Fondapol (Foundation for the Political Innovation), France

Mario Stasi, president of LICRA France

Dr. Alina Levi, Chairperson of the Beth Shalom Foundation, Bulgaria

Professor Joël Kotekn, President of Institut Jonathas

Roberta Bonazzi, President of European Foundation for Democracy

Rosen Plevneliev, Former President of the Republic of Bulgaria

Manuel Valls, Former Prime Minister of France

Bernard Cazeneuve, Former Prime Minister of France

Dr. Solomon Passy, Founder & President of the Atlantic Club of Bulgaria and Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria

Borislav Sarafov, Acting Chief Prosecutor of the Republic of Bulgaria

Marco Scurria, Member of Parliament, Italy

Carlo Masci, Mayor of Pescara, Italy