

## **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

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

**Maram Stern**, Executive Vice President of the World Jewish Congress

**Emma Hallali**, President of European Union of Jewish Students

**Ariel Muzicant**, President of European Jewish Congress

**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  
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**Volker Beck**, President, Deutsch-  
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**NES Noi Ebrei Socialisti** (We, Socialist  
Jews) association, Italy

**Gherush92 Committee for Human Rights**,  
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**Luigi De Salva**, President of Religions for  
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**Bruno Gazzo**, President of Federation of  
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**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

**Carlo Masci**, Mayor of Pescara, Italy

**Davide Bergamini**, Member of Parliament, Italy

**Gianni Berrino**, Member of the Senate, Italy

**Lorenzo Cesa**, Member of Parliament, Italy

**Marco Dreosto**, Member of the Senate, Italy

**Paolo Formentini**, Member of Parliament, Italy

**Mariastella Gelmini**, Member of the Senate, Italy

**Simonetta Matone**, Member of Parliament, Italy

**Andrea Orsini**, Member of Parliament, Italy

**Ettore Rosato**, Member of Parliament, Italy

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**Marco Scurria**, Member of Parliament, Italy

**Giuliomaria Terzi Di Sant'agata**, Member of the Senate, Italy

**Lucio Malan**, Member of the Senate, Italy

**Matteo Gelmetti**, Member of the Senate, Italy

**Naike Gruppioni**, Member of Parliament, Italy

**Elizabeth Gardini**, Member of Parliament, Italy