



**NONE SHALL  
BE AFRAID**  
FIGHTING ANTI-SEMITISM

# The Fight Against Anti-Semitism in the European Union

## The European Union

The European Union is comprised of three main branches – the Council of the European Union (which brings together the 27 member states, usually in a consensus approach); the European Commission (which acts, broadly speaking as an executive body, but also initiates legislation); and the European Parliament (which represents EU citizens and vets legislation). Each have their role to play in tackling anti-Semitism. In addition to the three main branches, the EU Fundamental Rights Agency provides monitoring and reporting on topics that include anti-Semitism.

## European Commission (EC)

In 2015, the EC appointed Katharina von Schnurbein to serve as the first coordinator for combating anti-Semitism. Currently, the position answers directly to 1st vice president of the EC, Margaritis Schinas. The EC initiated the working group on combating anti-Semitism in 2019. The working group supports member states to adopt at national level holistic strategies to prevent and fight all forms of anti-Semitism as part of their strategies on preventing racism, xenophobia, radicalization and violent extremism. The commission recommends the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism and on November 29th, 2018, the EU acquired a Permanent International Partnership with IHRA.

## The Council of the European Union

In December 2018, the member states, coming together in the council, unanimously adopted the “Council Declaration on the fight against anti-Semitism and the development of a common security approach to better protect Jewish communities and institutions in Europe.” This declaration provided a renewed support for the topic, mandated action from member states and outlined the main areas of concern with regard to anti-Semitism.

## The European Parliament

In 2017, the European Parliament adopted the resolution on combating anti-Semitism (2017/2692), which, among other important elements, endorsed the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism and called on member states to do the same.

## The EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)

The work of the Fundamental Rights Agency is essential in informing decision-making in the other bodies. FRA provides a yearly report on anti-Semitic incidents throughout the EU and has also conducted, in 2013 and 2018, two major surveys of Jewish Europeans, assessing their perceptions and experiences of anti-Semitism.



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## Broader Picture

While the above points deal specifically with anti-Semitism, the topic is also anchored in broader legislative frameworks and policy directives. The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, the Race Equality Directive and the Framework Decision on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia are part of the general antidiscrimination frame of the EU.

Aside from these pieces of law, the fight against anti-Semitism is dealt with in a series of working groups such as the EU High Level Group on combating racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance and the working group on hate crime recording, data collection and encouraging reporting. These working groups focus on policy areas such as countering illegal hate speech online, tackling terrorist content online, maintaining security of public spaces, prevention of radicalization and managing disinformation and conspiracies.



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