



## COMBATING ANTISEMITISM FOSTERING JEWISH life



# DRAFT AGENDA

## 2<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU STRATEGY ON COMBATING ANTISEMITISM AND FOSTERING JEWISH LIFE

BRUSSELS  
1 – 2 June 2022

*On 5 October 2021 the European Commission adopted the first-ever EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life. In full respect of national competences, the strategy sets out the policy framework for the Commission for the period 2021-2030.*

*In the Council Conclusions on combating racism and antisemitism of 4 March 2022, adopted under the French Presidency, the Member States once more committed to developing national strategies against antisemitism, and endeavour to do so by the end of 2022.*

***The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Working Group will aim to further support the development of these national strategies and focus on relevant topics that Member States are encouraged to cover in them.***

*The recently adopted Conclusions and the EU Strategy amongst others call for developing a **common methodology to record antisemitic incidents** and to increase the efforts to ensure the **security of Jewish communities**, as well as around religious institutions, places of worship and confessional schools, including during cultural or religious events. The working group includes dedicated sessions on these topics.*

*Furthermore, during the working group an update will be provided on the **situation of the Jewish community in Ukraine**, and the efforts of Jewish organisations to help the refugees.*

***We look forward to seeing you in person in Brussels. There will be no online option.***



## WEDNESDAY, 1 JUNE 2022

**13:00 – 14:00**      **Welcome and Registration, including a walk-in-lunch**

**14:00 – 14:30**      **Welcome** by **Katharina von Schnurbein**, *Coordinator on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life, European Commission*

**Keynote** by **Vice-President Margaritis Schinas**, *Vice-President for Promoting our European Way of Life, European Commission*

**Introduction of the agenda** by **Jacki Davis**, *Moderator of the day*

**14:30 – 15:30**      **Update on the situation of the Jewish community in Ukraine and antisemitic narratives emerging from the war**

*In this session speakers will provide an update on the situation of the Jewish community in Ukraine and its prospects in Europe and discuss the antisemitic narratives emerging from the war and ways to counter them. Ukraine is home to up to 200,000 Jews, making it the fourth largest Jewish community in Europe and the eleventh largest in the world. As other citizens, many Jewish people in Ukraine are fleeing the war looking for security. Jewish communities and organisations worldwide are making great efforts to help them. The reception of Jewish Ukrainians poses a challenging task for Jewish communities in the EU. At the same time, extremists across the political spectrum use the war to promote antisemitic conspiracy theories, alleging that the war itself is orchestrated by Jews for both financial control and global power. The language and justification of the war by Russia is based on antisemitism and disinformation, when it alludes to Nazi leadership in Ukraine or to genocide caused by Ukrainians, speaking about a final solution.*

**15:30 – 16:00**      **Comfort Break**

**16:00 – 17:50**      **Session I. Tour-de-table with updates from Member States and Jewish communities on national strategies and other actions**

*During this session all Member States will be asked to give an update on the developments of national strategies and other actions in their country to combat antisemitism. Member States committed in the 2018 and 2020 Council Declarations on combating antisemitism to “preventing and fighting all forms of antisemitism through new national strategies or measures under existing national strategies and/or action plans on preventing racism, xenophobia, radicalisation and violent extremism.” In the Council Conclusions on combating racism and antisemitism of 4 March 2022, adopted under the French Presidency, Member States promised to develop national strategies against antisemitism by the end of 2022.*

**17:50 – 18:00**      **Concluding remarks**

**18:00**                **End of Day 1**

**19:00**                **Dinner at the Jewish museum of Belgium and guided tour of the temporary exhibition “Sol LeWitt – Wall Drawings, Works on Paper, Structures (1968 – 2002)”**



## THURSDAY, 2 JUNE 2022

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**08:30 – 09:00**      **Welcome and Registration**

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**09:00 – 09:30**      **Opening session**

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09:20 – 09:25      **Introduction of the agenda** by **Jacki Davis**, *Moderator of the day*

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**09:25 – 10:45**      **Session II. The security needs of the Jewish community**

*This session will focus on the security needs of the Jewish community and on what the EU and Member States can do to meet those needs. According to the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, 71% of Jewish people avoid carrying or displaying items that could identify them as Jewish. 38% of Jews have considered emigrating because they do not feel safe as Jews in the EU. Protecting and fostering Jewish life is a key pillar in the EU Strategy and in the recently adopted Conclusions, Member States committed to increase the efforts to ensure the security of Jewish communities, as well as around religious institutions, places of worship and confessional schools, including during cultural or religious events.*

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**10:45 – 11:15**      **Comfort Break**

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**11:15 – 12:15**      **Session III – Developing a common methodology on recording antisemitic incidents**

*The recently adopted Conclusions and the EU Strategy amongst others call for developing a common methodology to record antisemitic incidents. On 18 and 19 May, Austrian Federal Minister for EU and Constitutional Affairs, Ms. Karoline Edtstadler, hosts a high-level meeting of Special Envoys and Coordinators Combating Antisemitism and experts in the field of antisemitic hate crime recording. During this session results of the conference will be shared and it will be discussed how we can further cooperate towards a common methodology on recording antisemitic incidents.*

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**12:15 – 12:50**      **“Discussion under six eyes” between representatives of Member States and representatives of national Jewish communities**

**Questions:**

1. What is the most burning issue in the fight against/prevention of antisemitism in Member States?
2. How can we strengthen the security efforts?
3. How can we improve the recording of antisemitic incidents and how can we contribute to the development of a common methodology?

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**12:50 – 13:00**      **Concluding remarks**

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**13:00**                **End of Day 2**

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