



ACTIVITY REPORT
2020 - 2025



EUROPEAN
JEWISH CONGRESS

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EUROPEAN JEWISH CONGRESS

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

OCTOBER 2020 - APRIL 2025

FRIDAY, 9TH OCTOBER 2020
PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY TO THE EUROPEAN UNION, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Raya Kalenova spoke at the Halle attack commemoration ceremony hosted by the Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to the European Union and organised in partnership with the European Jewish Congress and B'nai B'rith International. The event marked the anniversary of the attack by a far-right extremist on the synagogue in Halle, Germany, on Yom Kippur.

HE Martin Kotthaus, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Kingdom of Belgium, reiterated Germany's commitment to preserving Jewish life and fighting antisemitism in all its forms.



The event was also addressed by Alina Bricman, Director of EU Affairs at B'nai B'rith International, and concluded with a minute's silence in honour of the victims of the attack.

TUESDAY, 20TH OCTOBER 2020
ONLINE

Maria Bagdasarova took part in WJC Meeting of Community Directors.

TUESDAY, 27TH OCTOBER 2020
ONLINE

The EJC held a virtual General Assembly attended by the leaders of 42 affiliated communities.

Dr Moshe Kantor was re-elected as President of the European Jewish Congress.

Marie van der Zyl, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, was re-elected as Chair of the Council.

A newly composed Executive Committee was elected by the members of EJC.

During the virtual General Assembly, leaders from 42 European Jewish communities also pledged new action to promote the implementation of the IHRA definition of antisemitism on a national level.

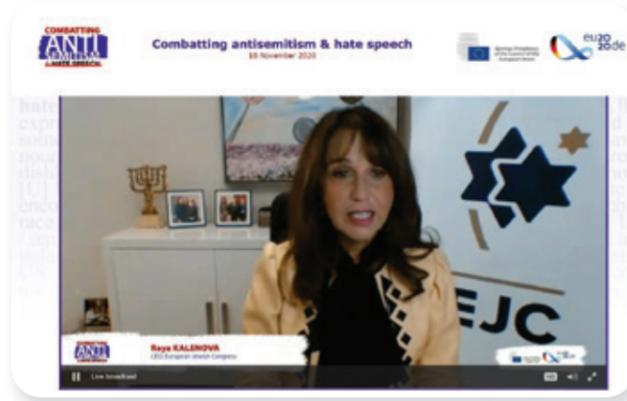
European Jewish leaders were briefed on the recent historic Abraham Accords between Israel, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and the United States by HE Emmanuel Nahshon, Ambassador of Israel to Belgium and Luxembourg, and Nancy Khedouri, senior Jewish member of the National Assembly of Bahrain.



THURSDAY, 5TH NOVEMBER 2020
ONLINE

Ariella Woitchik met with Lord Mann, the UK Government's Independent Advisor on antisemitism, to discuss joint initiatives.

WEDNESDAY, 18TH NOVEMBER 2020
ONLINE



Raya Kalenova addressed the conference 'Antisemitism online – The role of prevention and education in tackling antisemitic hate speech', organised by the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The conference set out to examine the steps taken by governments and digital platforms to guarantee a culture of free and open online debate

and to protect victims affected by the proliferation of antisemitic online hate speech.

The panel discussion also included Nicola Beer MEP, Vice-President of the European Parliament and Chair of the EP Working Group Against Antisemitism; Maram Stern, Executive Vice-President of the World Jewish Congress; and Katharina von Schnurbein, European Commission Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life.

THURSDAY, 19TH NOVEMBER 2020
ONLINE

Raya Kalenova addressed the International Meeting of Special Envoys & Coordinators Combating Antisemitism (SECCA) hosted by the World Jewish Congress.

SUNDAY, 22ND NOVEMBER 2020
ONLINE

Raya Kalenova gave opening remarks at the 'First e-Summit of European Jewish leaders' organised by European Council of Jewish Communities (ECJC).

WEDNESDAY, 2ND DECEMBER 2020
ONLINE

Raya Kalenova addressed the webinar 'Online hate speech, conspiracy theories and radicalisation', organised by the European Jewish Congress and hosted by the European Parliament Working Group Against Antisemitism (EP-WGAS).

The online conference brought together policymakers, experts and civil society stakeholders to provide a forum for exploring different perspectives, addressing emerging challenges, identifying best practices and proposing policy recommendations to combat the proliferation of antisemitic conspiracy theories and disinformation.

The discussion featured MEP Nicola Beer, Vice-President of the European Parliament and Chair of WGAS; Dr Ariel Muzicant, EJC Vice-President; Michael O'Flaherty, Director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA); Krisztina Stump, Head of the Media Convergence and Social Media Unit in Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology of the European Commission; Ahmad Mansour, German-Israeli bestselling author, psychologist and expert on prevention of extremism; and MEP Othmar Karas, Vice-President of the European Parliament and WGAS Vice-Chair.

The discussion was moderated by Maria Bagdasarova and Johanan Seynave.



THURSDAY, 3RD DECEMBER 2020

ONLINE



The Executive Committee of the European Jewish Congress held its first meeting of the new term following the 2020 General Assembly.

TUESDAY, 8TH DECEMBER 2020

ONLINE

Raya Kalenova gave introductory remarks at the fourth meeting of the European Commission Working Group on combating antisemitism,



which aimed to support the implementation of the 2018 Council Declaration. The meeting focused on the development of national strategies against antisemitism, the practical use of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism, and fighting against antisemitic prejudices as part of civic orientation measures based on the European Commission Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion.

TUESDAY, 15TH DECEMBER 2020

ONLINE

The European Jewish Congress held its annual meeting of directors of affiliated Jewish communities via Zoom. Over 30 directors, professionals and experts from Jewish communities and organisations throughout Europe joined the online meeting to discuss recent developments, exchange best practices, and discuss opportunities and challenges ahead.

MONDAY, 18TH JANUARY 2021

ONLINE

Raya Kalenova and Johanan Seynave met with Belgian MP Michael Freilich (N-VA) to discuss the issue of religious rights in Belgium.

MONDAY, 18TH JANUARY 2021

ONLINE

The EJC met with representatives of Brussels-based Jewish organisations to discuss joint recommendations for the upcoming EU Digital Services Act.

THURSDAY, 21ST JANUARY 2021



The EJC launched the radio show Europa Judaica on Radio Judaica in Belgium, dedicated to affiliated communities and EJC activities. The show is hosted by Ariella Woitchik and Eitan Bergman and is conducted in French.

MONDAY, 25TH JANUARY 2021

ONLINE

Together with the European Commission, the EJC co-hosted an online event on International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

European Commission Vice-President Margaritis Schinas addressed the event and was in conversation with Tomi Reichental, a survivor of Bergen-Belsen, on the lessons of the Holocaust for 21st-century Europe, new forms of remembrance, concepts of atonement and reconciliation, and our common duty to speak up and counter Holocaust denial and distortion. The conversation was moderated by EJC Director of European Affairs Ariella Woitchik.

In his video address, EJC President Dr Moshe Kantor called on the member states of the European Union to ensure that Holocaust survivors have access to a Covid-19 vaccine as soon as possible.

Excerpts from the documentary Close to Evil (2014) were also shown at the event. The film is the compelling story of Reichental's quest to meet one of the SS women who held him captive in Bergen-Belsen.





TUESDAY, 9TH FEBRUARY 2021
ONLINE

Ariella Woitchik met with Evan Hochberg, Chief Operating Officer at the World Jewish Restitution Organization and Director of International Special Projects at the Claims Conference, to outline future cooperation.

WEDNESDAY, 10TH FEBRUARY 2021
ONLINE

Ariella Woitchik met with Mikolaj Wrzecionkowski, Adviser on Combating Antisemitism at OSCE/ODIHR, to discuss the current needs of Jewish communities across Europe, issues of mutual concern and possibilities for cooperation.

THURSDAY, 11TH FEBRUARY 2021
ONLINE

Maria Bagdasarova took part in the round table with major Jewish organisations hosted by the office of the European Commission Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life, Katharina von Schnurbein. EU funding opportunities were discussed, as well the plans regarding the EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life.

WEDNESDAY, 3RD MARCH 2021
ONLINE

The EJC participated in the meeting of the Board of the European Parliament Working Group Against Antisemitism, with Nicola Beer MEP presiding. The Board welcomed its newest member Ilana Cicurel MEP (Renew Europe, France). The WGAS plan of action for 2021/2022 was discussed.

MONDAY, 8TH MARCH 2021
ONLINE

On International Women's Day, the EJC organised an online conference entitled 'Antisemitism and sexism: points of intersection'. The webinar explored the intersectionality between the age-old types of discrimination: antisemitism and sexism.

The event, which was held in French with English interpretation, was addressed by MEP Ilana Cicurel (Renew Europe, France), who is also Founder and President of the citizen collective 'Je m'engage pour l'école'; Rabbi Delphine Horvilleur, author and Editorial Director of the magazine Tenou'a, and Member of the Parliament of the Brussels Capital region; and author, co-founder and president of the Feminist Observatory of Violence against Women, Vivanne Teitelbaum. They all shared their experiences of exposure to both types of discrimination and reflected on the connections that exist between them.

Raya Kalenova delivered opening remarks. EJC Director of European Affairs Ariella Woitchik moderated the discussion.



THURSDAY, 11TH MARCH 2021
ONLINE

Raya Kalenova took part in an online public talk with the National Coalition Supporting Eurasian Jewry (NCSEJ).

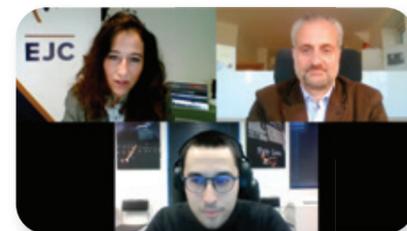
The event 'One Year Later: The Impact of the Coronavirus on European Jewry' touched upon the most crucial topics affecting European Jewry one year into the global pandemic. Raya Kalenova introduced the work of the EJC, outlined the EJC's efforts in supporting its affiliated communities throughout the pandemic, and gave details on the progress achieved at policy level in the fight against antisemitism and the fostering of Jewish life in the previous years.



The event was moderated by NCSEJ Vice-Chairman and CEO Mark B. Levin. NCSEJ Chairman Jim Schiller also addressed the event.

WEDNESDAY, 17TH MARCH 2021
ONLINE

The EJC held a special webinar with Dr Emmanuel Navon to discuss Israel's foreign policy challenges and his new book *The Star and the Scepter: A Diplomatic History of Israel* (University of Nebraska Press). The discussion was moderated by Ariella Woitchik and Johanan Seynave.



FRIDAY, 19TH MARCH 2021
ONLINE

Raya Kalenova addressed the 2021 European Anti-Racism Summit co-hosted by the European Commission, the Portuguese Presidency of the European Council and the Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup of the European Parliament (ARDI).

The summit was organised for the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and addressed the implementation of the



European Anti-Racism Action Plan at various levels with the involvement of EU Institutions, member states, civil society, equality bodies and grass-roots organisations.

Raya Kalenova took part in a high-level panel entitled 'The European Anti-Racism Action Plan – From words to action'. During the discussion she stated:

'We as Jews know only too well what institutional and structural racism is. Excluded for centuries from European society, degraded and humiliated with pointed hats and yellow stars, forced to live behind ghetto walls, prevented from exercising most professions, later denied membership of clubs or entrance into universities, and forcibly exiled from almost every European country.

'We know what exclusion is. And we know where it leads. In living memory, half of European Jews were exterminated as the ultimate exclusion.

'Today, antisemitism continues to fester, mutating and finding a home in all ideologies and movements.

'Our experience has taught us that when anyone's rights are in danger, the whole society is in danger. While racism, antisemitism, anti-gypsyism and anti-Muslim hatred exist anywhere, it affects us all.

'And this is one of the reasons why we have to stand together with our brothers and sisters in other minority communities and to offer solidarity and commitment to examining our structures.'

MONDAY, 22ND MARCH 2021
ONLINE

The EJC met with Lord Mann, the UK Government's Independent Adviser on Antisemitism, to discuss the issue of adoption of the IHRA definition of antisemitism by European football clubs and leagues and other possible cooperation opportunities.

TUESDAY, 23TH MARCH 2021
ONLINE

Raya Kalenova spoke at the 'Bitesize Training Session' for the professional staff of the Board of Deputies of British Jews on the structure and key areas of work of the EJC as well as on the ongoing and upcoming EJC campaigns.

WEDNESDAY, 7TH APRIL 2021
ONLINE

At the release of the Annual Report on Antisemitism Worldwide 2020 by the Kantor Center at Tel Aviv University, Dr Moshe Kantor spoke about the significant rise in extremism and the widespread increase in antisemitic conspiracy theories over the previous year that could have profound effects on Jewish communities in a post-pandemic world.



THURSDAY, 15TH APRIL 2021
ONLINE

Ariella Woitchik and Eitan Bergman met with Alejandro Okret of Moishe House to discuss its ongoing cooperation with the EJC.

THURSDAY, 15TH APRIL 2021
ONLINE

Maria Bagdasarova and Johanan Seynave delivered a presentation and held a Q&A session on the EJC's structure, mission and current campaigns at the meeting of the International Division of the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

TUESDAY, 20TH APRIL 2021
ONLINE

Dr Moshe Kantor met with Lord Mann, the UK Government's Independent Adviser on Antisemitism, to discuss possibilities of enhanced cooperation.

WEDNESDAY, 21ST APRIL 2021
ONLINE

Holocaust Education and Remembrance
Keeping up with the digital age
APRIL 21, 2021 | 15:00 - 16:30 CET
→ LIVE ON EJC FACEBOOK PAGE

HOSTS	SPEAKERS
<p>MEP NICOLA BEED Vice-President of the European Parliament and WGAS Chair</p> <p>MEP SERGEY LAGODINSKY WGAS Vice-Chair</p> <p>MEP ILANA CICUREL WGAS Board member</p> <p>MEP BRANDO BENIFEI WGAS Board member</p>	<p>AMBASSADOR CHRIS J. LAZARIS Chair of the IHRA</p> <p>GEORGES MAYER Founder and President of Conval 77 project</p> <p>COLETTE AVITAL Chair, The Center of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel</p> <p>IANNIS RODER History teacher in Sèvres-Saint Denis (Paris), Author</p> <p>MAYA KOCHAVI Co-creator and Co-director of EvaStories</p> <p>JURMET HURTEMA-DE WAAL Project leader Education, Anne Frank House</p> <p>HANNAH LANDSMANN Communication and education manager of the Jewish Museum of Vienna</p>

MODERATOR
ARIELLA WOITCHIK
Director of European Affairs
European Jewish Congress

The EJC, together with the European Parliament Working Group Against Antisemitism (WGAS), organised a webinar entitled 'Holocaust education and remembrance: keeping up with the digital age'.

The online conference brought together policymakers, civil society stakeholders and experts from leading Holocaust educational projects to provide a forum for sharing best practices and the future vision for Shoah education at a time of a growing generational gap, digitalisation and rising disinformation.

The conference was addressed by:

- **Nicola Beer**,
Vice-President of the European Parliament and Chair of WGAS
- **HE Ambassador Christodoulos Lazaris**
Chair of the IHRA
- **Sergey Lagodinsky**
MEP and WGAS Vice-Chair
- **Maya Kochavi**
Co-Creator and Co-Director of @Eva.Stories
- **Jurmet Huitema-De Waal**
Project Leader Education at the Anne Frank House
- **Hannah Landsmann**
Communications and Education Manager at the Jewish Museum in Vienna
- **Ilana Cicurel**
MEP and WGAS Board member
- **Iannis Roder**
author and history teacher
- **Georges Mayer**
Founder and President of the Convoi 77 project
- **Colette Avital**
Chair of the Center of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel
- **Brando Benifei**
MEP and WGAS Board member

Ariella Woitchik moderated the event.

THURSDAY, 22ND APRIL 2021

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

The European Jewish Congress Security and Crisis Centre (SACC by EJC) was awarded a grant of around €3 million by the European Commission to assist in the protection of houses of worship in Europe.

The grant is a result of a partnership with three well-established organisations from the Christian, Muslim and Buddhist communities, the Conference of European Churches, Faith Matters and the European Buddhist Union. The outcome of this partnership is the project 'Safer and Stronger Communities in Europe' (SASCE).



The SASCE project is a multi-layered approach to dramatically increasing security in and around places of worship, as well as within and between Christian, Buddhist, Muslim and Jewish communities. The grant has been awarded by the European Commission's Internal Security Fund – Police (ISFP) mechanism. The SACC by EJC office was assisted by EJC Vice-President Yohan Benizri and EJC Policy Director Johanan Seynave throughout the application process.

For the first time, representatives of the four religious communities will be working together on a common project to enhance security, which will be funded by the European Commission.

As part of this initiative, the four partner organisations will develop tools to strengthen security awareness and crisis management. These tools will be disseminated by a network of ambassadors through trainings and briefings for religious communities, as well as through wider communication campaigns. In addition, as part of a pilot, 1,000 Jewish communal buildings across Europe will be equipped with new technology to increase their protection level.

The project will also strengthen trust and cooperation between civil society and national authorities, facilitating formalised channels of communication between community leadership and public enforcement authorities.

THURSDAY, 22ND APRIL 2021

ONLINE

Johanan Seynave attended a European Commission briefing meeting on funding opportunities related to Holocaust remembrance and education, combating antisemitism and discrimination. The meeting aimed to inform about the European Commission's new calls for proposal and eligibility.

WEDNESDAY, 28TH APRIL 2021

EJC OFFICE, BRUSSELS

Raya Kalenova and the EJC team met with Tanja Fajon MEP, president of the Social Democrats in Slovenia, and her cabinet to discuss the situation regarding restitution in the Republic of Slovenia.

MONDAY, 10TH MAY 2021
MARBELLA, SPAIN



Raya Kalenova met with Isaac Benzaquen Pinto, President of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Spain, and Raphael Cohen, President of the Jewish Community of Marbella, to discuss the issues faced by the Spanish Jewish community and to plan joint initiatives.

MONDAY, 10TH MAY 2021
ONLINE

The EJC hosted a briefing for the affiliated communities on funding opportunities available under the European Commission’s new Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme (CERV) for 2021–27. The briefing was conducted by Johannes Boermann, Policy Officer at the European Commission.

TUESDAY, 11TH MAY 2021



The European Jewish Congress (EJC) mobilised to ensure that Holocaust survivors and Jewish communities had access to COVID-19 vaccines and critical equipment. The EJC provided assistance, medical equipment, and sanitary supplies to support local vaccination efforts and protect vulnerable populations.

TUESDAY, 26TH MAY 2021
ONLINE

Dr Moshe Kantor addressed the 16th Plenary Assembly of the World Jewish Congress.

Dr Moshe Kantor was re-elected as Chair of the Policy Council of the World Jewish Congress (WJC). Dr Kantor ran uncontested at the 16th Plenary Assembly of the WJC and will Chair the Policy Council for a third consecutive term.

TUESDAY, 1ST JUNE 2021
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Raya Kalenova met with HE Ambassador Urs Bucher, Head of the Mission of Switzerland to the EU, and incoming Ambassador of Switzerland to Israel.

WEDNESDAY, 2ND JUNE 2021
ONLINE

Raya Kalenova participated in a digital meeting regarding the planning of the Malmö International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism. The meeting was hosted by Anna Ekström, Swedish Minister for Education.

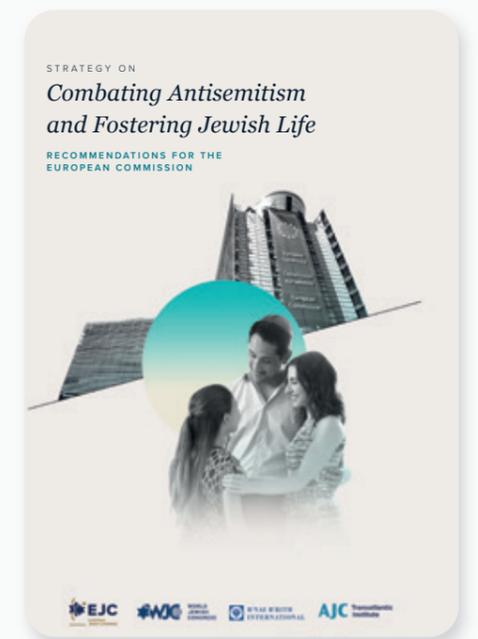
WEDNESDAY, 2ND JUNE 2021
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

The EJC coordinated an initiative with all major international Jewish organisations to present joint recommendations to the European Commission to combat antisemitism and to foster Jewish life in Europe, ahead of the publication of the European Union’s first-ever strategy to combat Jew-hatred.

These efforts resulted in a document including 76 recommendations across 12 thematic areas, endorsed by the EJC, the World Jewish Congress (WJC), B’nai B’rith International (BBI), the American Jewish Committee Transatlantic Institute (AJC-TAI), The European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS), the European Association for the Preservation and Promotion of Jewish Culture and Heritage (AEPJ), the European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ), B’nai B’rith Europe (BBE), and CEJI – A Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe.

All the groups recognised and applauded the sustained efforts in recent years to curb this age-old scourge and expect the European Commission to widen and deepen its work in the upcoming EU strategy, which was announced by European Commission Vice-President Margaritis Schinas earlier in 2021.

The recommendations build on the Council Declaration on mainstreaming the fight against antisemitism across policy areas, adopted unanimously by all EU member states in December 2020, and made concrete proposals for a wide spectrum of EU policy portfolios.



THURSDAY, 3RD JUNE 2021
MISSION OF ISRAEL TO THE EU AND NATO,
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Raya Kalenova attended a briefing by HE Ambassador Aharon Leshno-Yaar, Head of the Israeli Mission to the EU and NATO.

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, 3RD AND 4TH JUNE 2021
ONLINE

Ariella Woitchik addressed the fifth meeting of the European Commission's Working Group on the implementation of the Council Declaration on the fight against antisemitism. This Working Group meeting was the main event for consulting member states and Jewish communities on the development of the forthcoming EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life that the European Commission will adopt by the end of 2021. The objective of the meeting was to gain input on the issues that the strategy should address and what concrete actions the Commission can take to tackle them.

MONDAY, 7TH JUNE 2021
ONLINE

The EJC held the meeting of the Task Force on Religious Rights to discuss relevant updates from communities and outline a strategy to address outstanding issues.

TUESDAY, 8TH JUNE 2021
ONLINE

The EJC met with the incoming Vice-President of Board of Deputies of British Jews David Mendoza-Wolfson.

WEDNESDAY, 16TH JUNE 2021
ONLINE

Dr Moshe Kantor addressed an event held by Tel Aviv University commemorating the fifth anniversary of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism.

Dr Kantor pointed out that the recent rise in antisemitism during the conflict between Israel and Hamas demonstrates why the definition and its examples are so vital.

The event held by the Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry was titled 'Who Is an Antisemite? The Polemic and Its Significance', and brought together leading academics, experts and activists in the arena of antisemitism for a symposium to talk about the significance and necessity of the definition.

THURSDAY, 24TH JUNE 2021
ONLINE

Raya Kalenova attended the meeting of the WJC Executive Committee.

MONDAY, 5TH JULY 2021
ONLINE

Raya Kalenova hosted a dinner in honour of the outgoing Head of the Israeli Mission to the EU and NATO, HE Ambassador Aharon Leshno-Yaar. The dinner was attended by the following dignitaries:

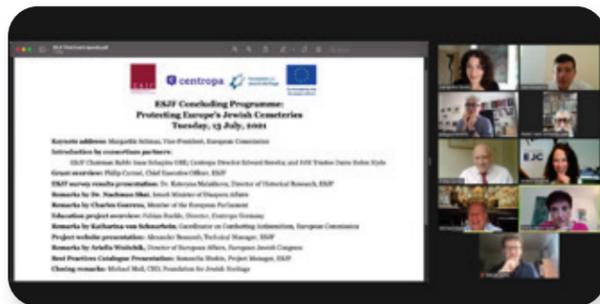
- **Francesco Talò,**
Permanent Representative of Italy to NATO
- **Spiros Lambridis, P**
ermanent Representative of Greece to Nato
- **Dimiter Tzantchev,**
Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the EU and incoming Head of EU Delegation to Israel
- **Georges Friden,**
Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the EU
- **Emmanuel Nahshon,**
Ambassador of Israel to Belgium and Luxembourg
- **Katharina von Schnurbein**
European Commissions Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life

- **Sergey Lagodinsky**
MEP
- **José Ramón Bauzá Díaz**
MEP
- **Daniel Braun,**
Deputy Head of Cabinet of EU Commissioner for Values and Transparency Věra Jourová
- **Prince Michel de Ligne**

TUESDAY, 6TH JULY 2021
ONLINE

The EJC participated in the meeting of the Board of the European Parliament Working Group Against Antisemitism (EP-WGAS), with Nicola Beer MEP presiding. Topics discussed included the upcoming meeting with European Commission Vice-President Margaritis Schinas on the Roadmap and the upcoming Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life in the EU, as well as the calendar of the upcoming activities of WGAS.

TUESDAY, 13TH JULY 2021
ONLINE



Ariella Woitchik addressed an online conference on the protection of Jewish cemeteries in Europe organised by the European Jewish Cemeteries Initiative (ESJF), in cooperation with Centropa and the Foundation for Jewish Heritage.

The conference presented findings of the pilot project 'Protecting the Jewish cemeteries of Europe', funded by the European Commission.

In her remarks, Ms Woitchik congratulated this initiative, emphasising its importance, not only for Jewish communities, but for European society.

Alongside Ms Woitchik, the conference was addressed by European Commission Vice-President for Promoting our European Way of Life Margaritis Schinas, Israeli Minister of Diaspora Affairs Dr Nachman Shai, MEP Charles Goerens, European Commission Coordinator on Combating Antisemitism Katharina von Schnurbein, and ESJF CEO Philip Carmel, among others.

TUESDAY, 13TH JULY 2021
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, BRUSSELS (ONLINE)

The EJC participated in the meeting between the Board of the European Parliament Working Group Against Antisemitism (EP-WGAS) and European Commission Vice-President Margaritis Schinas, where the upcoming Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life in the EU was discussed.

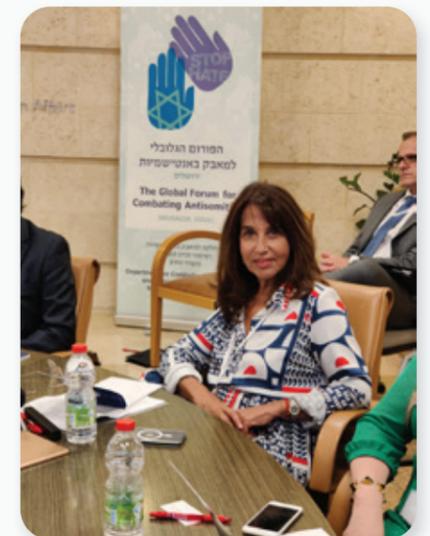
WEDNESDAY, 14TH JULY 2021
JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

Raya Kalenova addressed the 7th Global Forum for Combating Antisemitism (GFCA), held in Jerusalem.

Ms Kalenova took part in a panel discussion entitled, 'A Vaccine against Antisemitism: Education and Historical Research'. The main objective of the session was to emphasise the central importance of education as a long-term strategy against antisemitism and to ascertain the fundamental knowledge that every individual in society needs to hold regarding Holocaust history and its lessons.

The panel also included President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews Marie van der Zyl; Kishan Manocha, Head of the Tolerance and Non-Discrimination Department at the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR); Eyal Kaminka, Director of the International School for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem; and Anna Bokshitskaya, Executive Director of the Charitable Foundation Russian Jewish Congress.

The panel was moderated by Yossi Gevir, Director of External and Governmental Affairs at Yad Vashem.



WEDNESDAY, 14TH JULY 2021
EJC OFFICE, BRUSSELS

The EJC team met with Sonja Viličić, Executive Director at Haver Serbia, to discuss ongoing collaboration and possible joint initiatives.

TUESDAY, 20TH JULY 2021
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Raya Kalenova met with HE Annika Hahn-Englund, Ambassador of Sweden to Belgium and Luxembourg, to discuss the upcoming Malmö International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism.

WEDNESDAY, 1ST SEPTEMBER 2021
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Raya Kalenova and Ariella Woitchik met with incoming Ambassador of Israel to the EU and NATO, HE Haim Regev, and Head of the European Parliament Department at Israel's delegation to the EU Michal Philosoph.

THURSDAY, 2ND SEPTEMBER 2021
EJC OFFICE, BRUSSELS

The EJC office met with HE Annika Molin Hellgren, Sweden's Ambassador to Belgium, to discuss the upcoming Malmö International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism.

FRIDAY, 3RD SEPTEMBER 2021
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM



Ariella Woitchik addressed a round table organised by HIAS Europe on the importance of humanitarian action for a European Jewish agenda.

The meeting brought together representatives of European and local Jewish community organisations to discuss current issues of humanitarian concern and opportunities to

partner with HIAS, within the context of its emergency response strategy.

THURSDAY, 9TH SEPTEMBER 2021
ONLINE

The European Parliament Working Group Against Antisemitism (WGAS) held a meeting with Henrike Trautmann, Head of Unit and Acting Director for the Southern Neighbourhood at the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), on dealing with antisemitic content in Palestinian textbooks.

The meeting brought together experts to discuss the findings of a report on Palestinian textbooks requested in 2019 by High Representative Vice-President Federica Mogherini and published in June 2021 by the Georg Eckert Institute for International textbook research.

In the spirit of inter-institutional relations, the meeting sought to lay the groundwork for a long-term partnership among all stakeholders, with the aim of finding new ways to put an end to harmful educational concepts and establishing educational curricula free from prejudice, hatred and incitement.

The event was hosted by WGAS Chair and European Parliament Vice-President Nicola Beer MEP and WGAS Board Member David Lega MEP. They were joined by WGAS Board Members Ilana Cicurel MEP and Dragoş Tudorache MEP; Professor Dr Eckhardt Fuchs, Director of the Georg Eckert Institute (GEI); Professor Dr Riem Spielhaus, Head of Department, Knowledge in Transition, Georg Eckert Institute (GEI); Steven Stegers, Executive Director, European Association of History Educators (EUROCLIO); Johanan Seynave, Policy Director, European Jewish Congress; and Alina Bricman, Director of EU Affairs, B'nai B'rith International.



MONDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER 2021
ONLINE

The EJC met with Lord Mann, the UK Government's Independent Adviser on Antisemitism, to discuss updates on joint initiatives.

EU STRATEGY ON COMBATING ANTISEMITISM AND FOSTERING JEWISH LIFE



On 5th October 2021 the European Commission adopted the first ever EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life for the period 2021–30.

The Strategy is the outcome of six years of successful advocacy that started with the call by the EJC in 2015 to appoint a Coordinator on combatting antisemitism, and included one European Parliament Resolution and two European Council Declarations.

Ahead of the publication of the Strategy, the EJC coordinated a coalition of nine Jewish organisations to publish a policy paper with 76 recommendations. Of these, almost three quarters (56) were taken into account for the final Strategy document, including the most important demands.

The Strategy comprises three pillars: preventing and combating all forms of antisemitism; protecting and fostering Jewish life in the EU; and education, research and Holocaust remembrance. It seeks to place the EU firmly in the lead of the global fight against antisemitism.

The European Commission has called on EU institutions, member states, international organisations and all civil society actors and citizens to commit to a future free from antisemitism in the EU and beyond.

Key elements of the strategy:

- More funding and operational support for security projects for synagogues and communal buildings (EUR 24 million in 2022)
- More funding for projects to record antisemitic hate speech and hate crime
- More support to train judges, police and prosecutors to respond to antisemitic hate crime
- An annual civil society forum on combating antisemitism
- No EU funding for projects promoting hatred and violence against the Jewish people
- An EU-wide network of trusted flaggers to remove illegal content online
- New binding standards on antisemitism for national equality bodies
- Best practices to inform migrants about EU values, including in regard to antisemitism
- Promoting the fight against antisemitism in political dialogues in third countries
- Creation of a European research hub on contemporary antisemitism and Jewish life
- Funding for digitalising archives and testimonies of Holocaust survivors
- Safeguarding and rehabilitation of Jewish heritage sites within and outside the EU
- Cooperation with online companies to stop the illegal sale of Nazi memorabilia and literature
- Encouragement of all 27 member states to ensure that Jews can live their lives in accordance with their religious and cultural traditions
- Encouragement of all nine EU member states that have not yet adopted the IHRA definition to do so
- EU-wide survey of antisemitic prejudices

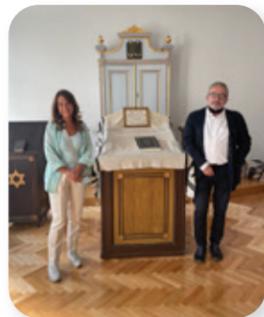
The strategy will be implemented over the next ten years. Comprehensive reports will be published in 2024 and 2029 based on progress by the Commission and the 27 Member States.

SUNDAY, 3RD OCTOBER 2021
DUBROVNIK, CROATIA

Raya Kalenova met with Nina Ofner Bokan, President of the Jewish Community of Montenegro, to discuss the situation of the community and EJC's participation at the upcoming Mahar conference.

MONDAY-TUESDAY, 4-5TH OCTOBER 2021
ZAGREB, CROATIA

Raya Kalenova visited the Jewish Community of Zagreb and met with its leadership. Meetings were held with Ognjen Kraus, President of the Coordinating Committee of Jewish Communities in Croatia, and Saša Cvetković, Vice-President of the Jewish Community of Zagreb and Head of Security, to discuss the challenges faced by the community in the country following the pandemic and earthquake.



TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY, 12TH-13TH OCTOBER 2021
MALMÖ, SWEDEN



Dr Moshe Kantor addressed the plenary of the Malmö International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism (Remember – ReAct) on behalf of Europe's Jewish communities, and called on world leaders to focus their efforts on fighting extremism and conspiracy theories among the youth.

'Over the past year and a half, young people have been locked down and exposed 24/7 to online disinformation, extremism and antisemitism. Never in history was a young generation so intensively brainwashed with conspiracy theories and lies, and at the same time so unfamiliar

with the tragedy of the Holocaust,' Dr Kantor said. 'Therefore, preventing young people from falling into extremism is one of the fundamental challenges of our time. But so far the majority of our strategies has failed.'

Dr Kantor stressed the importance of a multi-faceted approach to the problem of extremism by providing solid economic foundations and channeling the force of social influence for good: 'We must invest more in young people; we need a new social contract between generations. We must adapt to the digital age, find the most relevant influencers online and build social platforms that will attract our younger generations and open their souls and minds.'

'We cannot win the fight against antisemitism without winning the fight against extremism in general. We can turn social media from a potential mental health catastrophe into the most effective way of combating extremism,' he added.

Dr Kantor spoke in front of heads of state and government, researchers, experts and civil society representatives from around 50 countries. This was Dr Kantor's first in-person international public appearance since the Fifth World Holocaust Forum in Jerusalem. The Malmö International Forum was to take place in October 2020, 75 years after the end of the Second World War and the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, but was delayed.

The Forum was hosted by Sweden's Prime Minister Stefan Löfven and addressed virtually or in-person by many national leaders, including Israel's President Isaac Herzog, Finland's President Sauli Niinistö, Romanian President Klaus Iohannis, Ireland's Taoiseach Micheál Martin, Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama, President of Latvia Egils Levits, UN Secretary General António Guterres, European Council President Charles Michel and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

On the sidelines of the Forum Dr Moshe Kantor and EJC delegation had meetings with President of the European Council Charles Michel, European Commission Vice-President Margaritis Schinas, Austrian Federal Minister for the EU and Constitution Karoline Edtstadler and Israel's Minister of Diaspora Affairs Nachman Shai.

HM King Carl XVI Gustaf and HM Queen Silvia of Sweden were also in attendance. Leaders of hi-tech and social media companies such as Google, Facebook and TikTok also participated.



TUESDAY, 19TH OCTOBER 2021
MOSCOW, RUSSIA



The EJC bestowed upon Vladimir Shternfeld, President of the Federal Jewish National Cultural Autonomy (FENKA), the Navigator to Jerusalem award in a ceremony in Moscow recognising his life-long commitment to fostering Jewish life in Russia and his continued service for the benefit of the Jewish community in the country.

Raya Kalenova delivered remarks and presented the award on behalf of Dr Moshe Kantor.

'You have devoted your life to preserving Jewish traditions in post-Soviet Russia and supporting communities across this vast country. Having implemented hundreds of programmes bolstering Jewish culture and identity, you have played an invaluable role in revitalising Jewish life,' Dr Kantor said in his message read by Ms Kalenova.

'You have also made a significant contribution to the development of intercultural dialogue, to the strengthening of solidarity and understanding between the communities and peoples of multinational Russia.'

The ceremony was also addressed by Georgy Golukhov, FENKA Vice-President in charge of International Affairs and EJC Vice-President, and Igor Dabakarov, FENKA Director General.

HE Ambassador of Israel to Russia Alexander Ben Zvi, Tatiana Vagina, Head of the Ethnic Policy Unit at the Department of Home Affairs at the Russian President's Executive Office, and Chief Rabbi of Russia (CJROAR) Adolph Shaevich took the stage to congratulate the awardee.

The event was attended by representatives of Russian Jewish and public organisations and authorities.



THURSDAY-SUNDAY, 21ST-24TH OCTOBER 2021
BUDVA, MONTENEGRO

An EJC delegation took part in the 8th Mahar Conference organised by the Jewish community of Montenegro in Budva on 21-24 October.

Representing the EJC were Policy Director Johanan Seynave, Public Affairs Officer Eitan Bergman and SACC by EJC Head of Crisis Management Dany Choueka.

Mr. Seynave delivered remarks during the opening ceremony alongside Prime Minister of Montenegro Zdravko Krivokapić, Ambassador of the State of Israel to Serbia and Montenegro, H.E. Amb. Yahel Vilan, President of the Jewish community of Montenegro Nina Ofner Bokan, World Jewish Congress Executive Director of Operations Ernest Herzog, and Chief Rabbi of Croatia and Montenegro Luciano Moše Prelević.

In his remarks, Mr. Seynave welcomed the Jewish community of Montenegro into the EJC family once more one year into its admission as its newest affiliated national Jewish community.

"We are delighted to see a strong, confident and united community in Montenegro today, the EJC is proud to be a partner of this important conference", he added, praising the leadership of President Nina Ofner Bokan, Community Manager Ljiljana Vuković and Chief Rabbi Moše Prelević.

"I want to assure you that you can count on the support of the EJC in all your initiatives and we look forward to many years of fruitful cooperation."

Mr. Seynave also welcomed the strong cooperation between the Jewish community and the government of Montenegro under the prime ministership of Mr. Krivokapić, and especially the government's strong commitment to promoting Jewish life in the country.

At the ceremony, the EJC was presented by President Ofner Bokan with a commemorative medal on the 30th anniversary of the successful conclusion of efforts by the State of Israel to bring Ethiopian Jews to safety under "Operation Brothers."

In addition, Mr. Seynave, Mr. Bergman and Mr. Choueka delivered a lecture entitled: "A strong Jewish voice for Europe", presenting the activities of the EJC and focusing on recent achievements in the fight against antisemitism at the national and European level.

The conference also included sessions on the tangible and intangible Jewish heritage of the Bay of Kotor, diplomatic ties between the State of



Israel and the Western Balkans, Far-right extremism, the synagogues of the Vojvodina region and Comparing the Israeli and Montenegrin experiences of responding to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The conference concluded with a bilateral meeting between the EJC delegation and Montenegrin Minister of Defence Dr. Olivera Injac, which focused on civil society's role in promoting best practices regarding Crisis Management.

TUESDAY, 26TH OCTOBER 2021

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM



The EJC held an event honouring the Portuguese Righteous Among the Nations Aristides De Sousa Mendes together with the Portuguese Socialist Party Delegation to the European Parliament at Cinema Galleries in Brussels.

The event entitled "Tribute to Aristides de Sousa Mendes. L'Heritage d'Aristides" followed a decision by the Portuguese Parliament to grant Aristides de Sousa Mendes National Pantheon honours on June 9 2020, and a ceremony in Lisbon as his tomb was placed alongside other celebrated figures from Portuguese history on October 19 2021.

EJC Executive Vice President and CEO Raya Kalenova delivered remarks at the event on behalf of the EJC. She was joined by the President of the Portuguese Socialist Delegation in the European Parliament MEP Carlos Zorrinho, the President of the Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament MEP Iratxe García-Perez, MEP Isabel Santos,

MEP Manuel Pizarro and Hilda de Vleeschauwer, a survivor saved by the actions of Mr. De Sousa Mendes.

During her remarks, Ms Kalenova stressed the importance of the Righteous Among the Nations to the Jewish people and the value of learning from their stories.

"For the members of our Jewish communities, many of whom are survivors and descendants of survivors of the Holocaust, the greatest tragedy in our European history, the Righteous Among the Nations and their deeds are very close to our hearts. Even more so, it is through their courage and heroism that many of us are in this world. And the most courageous thing about their stories is to do the right thing regardless of personal cost."

"Aristides de Sousa Mendes acted in a climate of fear, indifference, denunciation & collaboration with Nazism, at a time when the Nazi victory seemed unstoppable. Most of the Jews who in 1940 managed to cross the Pyrenees to the border with Portugal did so thanks to Sousa Mendes"

"The legacy of Aristides de Sousa Mendes is that courage and respect for the sanctity of human life must prevail in the face of adversity. It is up to all of us to follow our conscience and stand up against injustice, against antisemitism, racism and all forms of hatred."

The event concluded with a screening of the documentary "The Legacy of Aristides" (2020) by Patrick Séraudie, which explores the acts of resistance and the subsequent retribution exacted upon Sousa Mendes by the Portuguese government for his heroic acts.

As the Portuguese consul in Bordeaux in 1940, Sousa Mendes found himself continually more restricted by the policies of Portugal's dictator Salazar. When the Portuguese government denied visas to the swelling number of refugees entering Portugal because of their religion and perceived race, Sousa Mendes began his first acts of disobedience.

Over a period of six months, and following his own conscience, Sousa Mendes signed thousands of visas that spared the lives of an estimated 30.000 people, including 10.000 ten thousand Jews.

The event was honoured by the presence of H.E. Amb. Emmanuel Nahshon, Ambassador of the State of Israel to the Kingdom of Belgium.

TUESDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2021
VIENNA, AUSTRIA



On the 83rd anniversary of Kristallnacht, EJC President Dr Moshe Kantor presented an unprecedented and detailed study "An End to Antisemitism!".

The study was conducted under the patronage of the President of the Austrian National Council, Wolfgang Sobotka, the City of Vienna and the European Jewish Congress.

Comprised of a five-volume book series, the study is the outcome of an international high-level conference held in Vienna in 2018, as a collaboration between the University of Vienna together with New York and Tel Aviv universities and the European Jewish Congress.

The study aims to prevent further Jew-hatred, as it manifests in the current political and social climate and into the future. 119 international experts scrutinize the multi-faceted problem of antisemitism: they shed light on the history of antisemitism and onto its specific features. Based on their analysis, they offer recommendations for a joint and effective fight against antisemitism.

Among the authors are renowned political and religious decision makers, including Katharina von Schnurbein (European Commission coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life), Natan Sharansky (former Chairman of the Jewish Agency), Archbishop

Pierbattista Pizzaballa (Apostolic Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem) and Imam Hassen Chalgoumi (President of the Conférence des Imams de France).

The study comprises five parts. The first offers practical solutions and recommendations for decision-makers, the second deals with Jew-hatred in religion, the third deals with the history of antisemitism, the fourth with its role in philosophy, pedagogy and social sciences, while the fifth explores manifestations in modern media, and in the legal and political worlds. Other speakers at the event included Wolfgang Sobotka, President of the Austrian National Council, Karl Nehammer, Federal Minister of the Interior, Karoline Edtstadler, Federal Minister of European Affairs and Dr Ariel Muzicant, Vice President of the EJC.

In addition, Dr. Kantor was awarded the Grand Decoration of Honour in Gold for Services to the Republic of Austria. This prestigious national honour was bestowed on him by the President of the Austrian National Council, Austria's parliament, Wolfgang Sobotka, for "his fight against antisemitism, racism, extremism and intolerance and for greatly contributing to preserving the memory of the Shoah and revitalizing Jewish life in Europe."

WEDNESDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2021
VIENNA, AUSTRIA



The European Jewish Congress held its Executive Meeting where members of the Executive gathered for the first time in person since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. They had the opportunity to discuss pressing issues affecting Jewish communities in Europe.

EJC President Moshe Kantor opened the Executive by thanking both IKG Honorary and EJC Vice-President Ariel Muzicant and IKG President Oskar Deutsch for such a warm welcome and for organising an impressive series of events in Vienna.

On November 9th, the Executive members attended a ceremony in front of the Shoah Memorial at the Judenplatz in order to commemorate the 83rd anniversary of Kristallnacht. The president of the Austrian National Council, Wolfgang Sobotka, laid a wreath together with Israeli Minister of Diaspora Affairs Nachman Shai, EJC President Moshe Kantor and IKG President Oskar Deutsch.

At the Executive meeting, Moshe Kantor outlined the priorities for the next months and insisted on the importance of educating young people against the threats of extremism and antisemitism.

EJC Executive Vice-President Raya Kalenova briefed Executive members on the latest developments and activities by the EJC, in particular the participation of an EJC delegation led by Moshe Kantor to the Malmö International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism. Raya Kalenova also explained the importance of the recent European Commission Strategy on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life to which the EJC contributed in a substantial way.

Executive members were then briefed by Katharina von Schnurbein, EC Coordinator on combatting antisemitism and fostering Jewish life, about the most important recommendations included in the strategy and about the positive developments it can bring to Jewish communities in the European Union.

Executive members gave updates on matters affecting their respective communities. In addition to rising antisemitism especially on social media and the lack of prosecution of antisemitic incidents, a matter of concern to the EJC Executive is the assault on religious rights affecting Jewish Communities across Europe.

Finally, Israeli President Isaac Herzog addressed a special video message to the EJC Executive and members had the opportunity to exchange on the current state of Israel-Diaspora relations with Israeli Minister of Diaspora Affairs, Nachman Shai. Israeli Ambassador to Austria, Mordechai Rodgold, was also in attendance.

TUESDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2021

ONLINE

The EJC team had a zoom meeting with Aedin Conboy, Public Policy and Government Relations Manager, and Elizabeth Kanter, Director of Government Relations and Public Policy at TikTok, to discuss the efforts of this social media platform in tackling online hatred and antisemitism, educating about the Jewish life and expanding cooperation with the civil society.

TUESDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2021

ONLINE

EJC Executive Vice-President and CEO Raya Kalenova and Head of Projects and Diplomatic Affairs Maria Bagdasarova had a zoom meeting with Oleg Rogatnikov, incoming President of the Union of Belarussian Jewish Public Associations and Communities.

WEDNESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 2021

ONLINE

EJC took part in the exchange between the Board of the European Parliament Working Group Against Antisemitism (WGAS) and President of the Austrian National Council Mag. Wolfgang Sobotka.

Raya Kalenova and Ariella Woitchik, EJC Director of European Affairs, stressed the importance of including European Jewish communities, represented at the EU level by the EJC, in the International Holocaust Remembrance Day commemoration ceremony held in the plenary of the European Parliament, and of continuing the long-standing tradition of side-events promoting the memory of the Holocaust in coordination with WGAS.

WEDNESDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2021

BRUSSELS - CCOJB OFFICE

Raya Kalenova took part in a meeting of leaders of the Belgian Jewish community with Idan Roll, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel.

THURSDAY, 02 DECEMBER 2021

BRUSSELS

EJC Policy Director Johanan Seynave took part in a conference and exchange of views on the future of the two-state solution, organised by MEP Bert-Jan Ruissen.

WEDNESDAY, 08 DECEMBER 2021

ONLINE



The EJC team took part in an exchange of views between the European Parliament Working Group Against Antisemitism (WGAS) and the Inter-Parliamentary Task Force to Combat Online Antisemitism.

The Inter-Parliamentary Task Force to Combat Online Antisemitism is a task force of lawmakers from the United

States, Israel, Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom to combat online antisemitism. The group is a cross-party alliance of legislators, including Anthony Housefather (Canada), Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (US), Michal Cotler-Wunsh (Israel) and Alex Sobel (UK).

Ariella Woitchik welcomed cooperation between WGAS and the Online Taskforce, provided the perspective of European Jewish civil society and insisted on the importance together with online platforms to implement the IHRA working definition in its entirety, and to implement it in their monitoring efforts.

TUESDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2021

ONLINE

Raya Kalenova took part in the first meeting of the European Commission Working Group on the implementation of the EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life.

FRIDAY, 17 DECEMBER 2021

BRUSSELS

Raya Kalenova had a phone conversation with Philippe Léglise-Costa, Permanent Representative of the French Republic to the European Union, to discuss the forthcoming French Presidency of the Council of the EU, and to establish cooperation for the International Holocaust Remembrance Day (IHRD) commemoration in January 2022.

TUESDAY, 21 DECEMBER 2021

ONLINE

EJC Social Media Officer Xavier Ruiz and Maria Bagdasarova had a zoom meeting with Tomer Aldubi, CEO of Fighting Online Antisemitism (FOA), an Israeli-based non-profit organization, to discuss possible cooperation on monitoring antisemitic and hateful content online.

THURSDAY, 13 JANUARY 2022

ONLINE

Ariella Woitchik had a call with Veronika Roubicek Sternova, Counselor at the Security Policy Department at the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, to discuss the Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2022.

WEDNESDAY, 26 JANUARY 2022

ONLINE

International Holocaust Remembrance Day Commemoration 2022

The EJC hosted its annual International Holocaust Remembrance Day commemoration that took place in partnership with the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the CRIF, the Representative Council of French Jewish institutions.

As 2022 marked the 80th anniversary of the round-ups of French Jews, the ceremony focused on the Holocaust in France. As such, testimonies of French survivors and historical footage were featured in line with the EJC's long-standing tradition of commemorative events.

The EJC was honored by the presence of Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic, Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, Charles Michel, President of the European Council, and Roberta Metsola, the newly elected President of the European Parliament.

EJC President Moshe Kantor delivered a keynote address at the ceremony.



WEDNESDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2022

ONLINE

Johanan Seynave and Policy Officer Dylan Bokler had a call with MEP Ilan De Basso (S&D, Sweden) to discuss efforts at the European Parliament in the fight against antisemitism.

THURSDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2022

ONLINE

Raya Kalenova addressed the European Economic and the Social Committee (EESC) on behalf of Europe's Jewish communities in a debate on antisemitism held by the EESC Section for employment, social affairs and citizenship in the context of the EESC upcoming opinion on the EU strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life.

She was joined by EESC president Christa Schweng, European Commission coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life Katharina von Schnurbein, Director of A Jewish contribution to an inclusive Europe (CEJI) Robin Sclafani and President of the section for external relations at the EESC Dimitris Dimitriadis. The meeting was chaired by EESC member Laurențiu Plosceanu.

The debate took place in preparation of the EESC opinion on the EU Strategy by rapporteur Ákos Topolánszky.

This was the second time since 2019 that the EESC, a consultative body of the European Union composed of members of employer organisations, trade unions representatives of social, occupational, economic and cultural organisations, devoted a session to the fight against antisemitism.

MONDAY, 14 FEBRUARY 2022

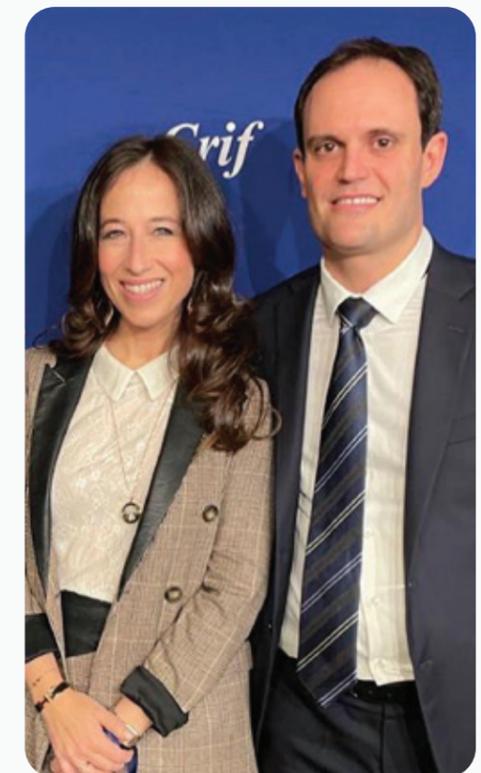
Maria Bagdasarova took part in the round table of major Jewish organisations hosted by the office of the European Commission Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life Katharina von Schnurbein.

FRIDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 2022

The EJC team met with Karel Fracapane, Programme Specialist, Global Citizenship and Peace Education Section at UNESCO, to discuss cooperation on the issue of combatting conspiracy theories, including co-hosting a joint conference on this topic.

THURSDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2022

PARIS



The 36th annual Dinner of the CRIF took place at the Carrousel du Louvre, in the presence of Prime Minister Jean Castex. Moshe Kantor, Raya Kalenova, and Ariella Woitchik attended on behalf of the EJC.

Numerous government ministers, diplomats and politicians, as well as religious representatives, representatives of associations, unions, intellectuals, artists, and businesspeople were in attendance.

THURSDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2022
POLAND, ROMANIA, SLOVAKIA, HUNGARY,
ESTONIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, AUSTRIA



Since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, the European Jewish Congress, working through its communal crisis management arm, SACC by EJC, and its affiliated Jewish communities, has mobilised to assist refugees fleeing from Ukraine.

Crisis management teams were activated in the Jewish communities of the bordering countries of Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Hungary, and in the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to provide assistance to all refugees and to facilitate their journeys to safe locations.

This included setting up 24/7 hotlines and providing accommodation, transport and basic necessities. These efforts were also being conducted in cooperation with local churches.

“This is an enormous humanitarian challenge for all our communities and exactly the sort of mission for which SACC was set up,” said SACC by EJC CEO Ophir Revach.

“It is a source of immense pride to see our communities mobilise in solidarity to protect refugees and offer their homes and assistance in this way. We will continue to assist all those in need to the best of our ability, skill set and resources, in line with our Jewish values,” he added.

MONDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2022
ONLINE

Raya Kalenova took part in the WJC briefing on the Ukraine–Russia conflict where the current situation of the Jewish communities in the two countries was discussed. Raya Kalenova took the floor to present the efforts of EJC and its security arm SACC by EJC in providing help to the refugees fleeing Ukraine.

MONDAY-WEDNESDAY, 7-9 MARCH 2022
AUSTRIA, SLOVAKIA, HUNGARY

As part of its ongoing efforts to assist refugees fleeing Ukraine, the EJC initiated deliveries of trucks to the Hungarian and Slovak borders with Ukraine.

EJC Executive Vice-President and CEO Raya Kalenova, together with EJC Vice-President Dr Ariel Muzicant and ÚZŽNO President Richard Duda supervised the first dispatch of relief trucks leaving Bratislava to the Slovak- and Hungarian-Ukrainian borders. The trucks contained basic necessities including food, medicine, sanitary products and other items to provide immediate aid to refugees.

In Vienna, Raya Kalenova was hosted at the Jewish community of Vienna (IKG Wien) by Dr Ariel Muzicant and President Oskar Deutsch. She met with refugees hosted by the Austrian community.

IKG Wien conducted efforts to provide a dignified welcome to refugees. Shelter and basic necessities were organised in three hotels, as well as access to medical doctors and psychologists. In addition, two Russian-language school classes and a kindergarten have been opened for small children, as well as cultural programmes.



WEDNESDAY, 9 MARCH 2022
ONLINE

Ariella Woitchik addressed the discussion of the WJC National Communities Director’s Forum regarding the Ukraine Crisis - Humanitarian Support & Community Reactions. She detailed on EJC’s and SACC’s by EJC ongoing efforts to assist refugees fleeing Ukraine.

THURSDAY, 10 MARCH 2022

ONLINE

Ariella Woitchik addressed a round table organised by EQUINET, the European Network of Equality Bodies, on Equality Bodies Combating Antisemitism.

The meeting brought together representatives of Equality Bodies, European Institutions, National Authorities and Jewish organisations to discuss how they can jointly combat and prevent antisemitism.

MONDAY, 14 MARCH 2022

WARSAW

SACC by EJC and the Jewish Community of Warsaw held a conference entitled 'The Circle of Security for Community Leaders'.

The conference brought together leaders for Poland's Jewish communities to discuss current security challenges, and in particular the work of the crisis management teams of Poland's Jewish communities to assist refugees fleeing Ukraine.

"From the beginning of the crisis in Ukraine, we have been in contact with EJC President Moshe Kantor, who offered us his full support to assist as many people as possible," said the President of the Jewish Community of Warsaw, Lesław Piszewski.

"We are grateful to EJC and SACC by EJC for the outstanding cooperation, which has ensured the provision of medical assistance and accommodation for refugees, but also facilitated their integration through schooling and by helping them and accompanying them in this extremely difficult stage of their lives," he added.

Other issues discussed at the conference included current security threats in the Republic of Poland, practical implementation of acquired knowledge in religious facilities, and an introduction to SACC by EJC's interfaith communal security initiative SASCE, Safer and Stronger Communities for Europe.

Speakers included the President of the Union of Jewish Religious Communities in Poland, Klara Kołodziejaska, SACC by EJC CEO Ophir Revach, and Lt. Col. Res. Dr. Tomasz Białek, CEO of Bezpieczny Projekt.

TUESDAY, 15 MARCH 2022

ONLINE

The EJC held an online briefing on the humanitarian action by the European Jewish Congress and its affiliated communities in connection with the ongoing crisis in Ukraine. Moshe Kantor delivered introductory remarks, Raya Kalenova provided an update on the humanitarian action lead by the EJC and SACC by EJC, community leaders reported on their efforts and needs.

WEDNESDAY, 16 MARCH 2022

BRUSSELS, EJC OFFICE

EJC hosted a delegation of young Jewish activists as part of the 2022 EU Activism Seminar organised by the European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS).



THURSDAY, 17 MARCH 2022

BRUSSELS, EJC OFFICE

Ilan Cohn, HIAS Europe Director and Rachel Levitan, HIAS Vice President of International Policy and Relations, had a meeting with Raya Kalenova, Ariella Woitchik and Johanan Seynave to discuss cooperation in support of Ukrainian refugees, including resettlement of the Ukrainian Jewish community.

THURSDAY, 17 MARCH 2022

BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

SACC by EJC Head of Crisis Management Danny Choueka visited the Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania (FCER) in Bucharest to celebrate Purim with refugees from Ukraine who have been welcomed into the community.

Purim presents and costumes were distributed at the Choral Temple in Bucharest as well as in a hotel where refugees were being hosted, celebrating the deliverance of the Jewish people and aiming to bring happiness and joy through the difficult times.



MODAY, 21 MARCH 2022
WARSAW, POLAND
POLISH-UKRAINIAN BORDER



At the invitation and initiative of SACC by EJC and the Jewish community of Poland, a delegation of Jewish community leaders from Estonia, Latvia and the Czech Republic came to Warsaw to participate in a two-day training and to contribute to the humanitarian operations at the Polish-Ukrainian border.

Among those present were President of the Jewish Community of Warsaw Leslaw Piszewski, Executive Director of the Jewish community of Estonia Vadym Rivlin, Executive Director of the Federation of Jewish communities in the Czech Republic Michael Pelisek, Crisis Manager of the Jewish Community of Estonia Yuka Shterenberg and Elena Spungina representing the Council of the Jewish communities of Latvia. They were accompanied by SACC by EJC Head of Crisis Management Elie Kagan.



The delegation visited a refugee camp outside Warsaw, where they met with Ukrainian refugees and brought presents to children. They also visited the CMT and the control room of the Jewish Community in Poland set up by SACC by EJC, from which assistance to refugees in Poland was being coordinated.

The next day, the delegation helped EJC to fill its truck with humanitarian aid and travelled to the Polish-Ukrainian border where those goods were delivered to assist refugees entering Poland.

The delegation also received a briefing from journalist Klara Vlahcevic Lisinski about the current situation inside Ukraine.

WEDNESDAY, 23 MARCH 2022
BRUSSELS, EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Raya Kalenova participated in a special round table with major Jewish organisations hosted by the office of the European Commission Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life dedicated to the war in Ukraine. Raya Kalenova reported on the efforts of EJC and its affiliated Jewish communities in support of Ukrainian refugees and the implications of the war in Ukraine.

THURSDAY, 23 MARCH 2022
ONLINE

Johanan Seynave took part in a panel discussion hosted by Radio Sefarad entitled "The duty to support one another" on the efforts of the State of Israel and Europe's Jewish communities during the war in Ukraine.

MONDAY, 28 MARCH 2022
BRUSSELS, EJC OFFICE

The EJC team met with Nicole Birtsch, incoming Head of Office of Vice-President of the European Parliament Nicola Beer, to discuss the continuous collaboration and future activities of the European Parliament Working Group against Antisemitism (EP-WGAS).



TUESDAY, 29 MARCH 2022

PARIS, FRANCE

The EJC collaborated with ECJC, HIAS, and the Fonds Social Juif Unifié to organise a two-day seminar in Paris on how to welcome refugees into new communities.

At the seminar, Ariella Woitchik gave opening remarks and outlined the coordinated efforts made by the EJC and its affiliated Jewish communities to provide humanitarian aid and shelters for as many Jewish and non-Jewish refugees as possible.

During the seminar, interactive workshops were organised and participants were able to share their experiences and best practices. Representatives from over 18 different countries talked about their successes and challenges in the hosting of Ukrainian refugees and discussed ways to further enhance cooperation.

TUESDAY, 29 MARCH 2022

ONLINE

Xavier Ruiz participated in the online meeting between Meta and major Jewish organisations. This time, the meeting covered the situation in Ukraine as well as Meta's approach to state-controlled media entities.

WEDNESDAY, 6 APRIL 2022

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY



Raya Kalenova was hosted by the Federation of Hungarian Jewish Communities (MAZSIHISZ) in Budapest.

MAZSIHISZ President András Heisler convened a special Executive meeting of Jewish community leaders from across Hungary to discuss pressing issues, especially continued support for refugees fleeing Ukraine.

Subsequently, Raya Kalenova visited the Budapest Jewish Charitable Hospital, where she met with Director General Dr Assaf Shemesh, and delivered a contribution from the EJC consisting of necessary medical equipment.

Finally, Ms Kalenova met with a group of Ukrainian refugees who were being hosted by the MAZSIHISZ, listened to their concerns and offered practical assistance.

FRIDAY, 8 APRIL 2022

EMBASSY OF ISRAEL, BRUSSELS

EJC Public Affairs Officer Caroline Totaro took part in a briefing by Haim Regev, Head of Israeli Mission to the EU and NATO, for Brussels-based Jewish organisations.

MONDAY, 11 APRIL 2022

ONLINE

An extraordinary meeting of the Executive Committee was convened. Executive members acknowledged Moshe Kantor's decision to step back with immediate effect as President of the organization in order to ensure that the EJC continues its important mission without distraction.

The members of the EJC Executive Committee thanked Moshe Kantor for his outstanding work at the head of the EJC over the last 14 years and saluted his strong leadership, commitment, and dedication to Jewish life in Europe.

Dr Ariel Muzicant, who has served as Vice-President of the EJC since 2012, was unanimously appointed Interim President.

MONDAY, 25 APRIL 2022

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, BRUSSELS

Dylan Bokler participated in European Report talk show on the role of European youth in combating antisemitism organized by the European Coalition for Israel (ECI). The other panelists were Bert-Jan Ruissen MEP and ECI Communications Officer Rebeka Goba, the discussion was moderated by journalist Marco Gombacci.



TUESDAY, 26 APRIL 2022

PRESS CLUB, BRUSSELS

Caroline Totaro and Dylan Bokler attended the policy report launch and round table event entitled "Countering Antisemitism in the Visegrád countries" organised by the Tom Lantos Institute of Budapest and the Institute for Public Affairs of Bratislava.

TUESDAY, 26 APRIL 2022
UAE EMBASSY, BRUSSELS

Raya Kalenova attended an Iftar dinner hosted by the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to the Kingdom of Belgium H.E. Amb. Mohamed Al Sahlawi.

TUESDAY, 26 APRIL 2022
LISZT INSTITUTE, CULTURAL INSTITUTE OF THE HUNGARIAN EMBASSY, BRUSSELS

Ariella Woitchik attended an event on the occasion of the Memorial Day of the Hungarian Victims of the Holocaust hosted by H.E. Tamás Iván Kovács, Ambassador of Hungary to Belgium and Luxemburg.

WEDNESDAY, 27 APRIL 2022
JERUSALEM, ISRAEL



EJC President Dr Ariel Muzicant held meetings with Prime Minister of the State of Israel Naftali Bennett, and Diaspora Minister Nachman Shai in Jerusalem. In addition, he had a call with President of the State of Israel Isaac Herzog.

Subsequently, Dr Muzicant met with officials from the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Jewish Agency for Israel, such as Senior Deputy Director General of Public Diplomacy Noam Katz, Senior Foreign Policy Advisor Amb. Zvi Vapni and Head of the Bureau of World Jewish Affairs and World Religions Shuli Davidovich.

Among topics discussed in the meetings were coordinating efforts between Israel and the diaspora in support of Ukrainian refugees, the security challenges currently faced by Europe's Jewish communities, a continued response to the rising antisemitism around the world and the nuclear threat posed by the Iranian regime.

FRIDAY, 29 APRIL 2022
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, BRUSSELS

Maria Bagdasarova and Caroline Totaro met with Oliver Schuster from the cabinet of Vice-President of the European Parliament Othmar Karas to discuss cooperation in the scope of WGAS and in the framework of the European Parliament's dialogue with churches, religious associations or communities, and philosophical and non-confessional organisations (Article 17, Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union).

WEDNESDAY, 4 MAY 2022
EUROPEAN COMMISSION, BRUSSELS

Maria Bagdasarova took part in the round table of major Jewish Organisations hosted by the office of the European Commission Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life Katharina von Schnurbein.

MONDAY, TUESDAY 9-10 MAY 2022
PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

EJC President Dr Ariel Muzicant and Director of European Affairs Ariella Woitchik took part in the Executive Committee Meeting of the World Jewish Congress held in Prague.

Resolutions were adopted on the Launch of the Jewish Youth Assembly, Welcoming EU Strategies against Jew Hatred, Rejection of the Designation of Israel as an Apartheid State, Welcoming the (OAS) Appointment of Antisemitism Commissioner, Welcoming Recent Bans of Holocaust Denial and Distortion, and Reaffirming Freedom of Religious Practice.

An opening dinner hosted by WJC President Amb. Ronald S. Lauder and Petr Papoušek, President of the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic.

The meeting was preceded by a tour of the Terezín Ghetto Museum followed by a Memorial ceremony on the Day of Liberation.



SATURDAY, SUNDAY 14-15 MAY 2022

THESSALONIKI, GREECE

Maria Bagdasarova attended the conference "Times of Crisis, Threats and Uncertainty" organised by SACC by EJC and the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki. The event aimed at bringing together the local authorities and presidents and leaders of the Greek Jewish Communities to discuss security, crisis management and cooperation.

WEDNESDAY, 10 MAY 2022

BRUSSELS, EJC OFFICE

Raya Kalenova and Ariella Woitchik attended the combined online meeting of the Executive Committee and Council of the World Jewish Restitution Organisation (WJRO).

MONDAY, 18 MAY 2022

VIENNA, AUSTRIA



Ariel Muzicant addressed the high-level meeting on antisemitic hate crime organised by The Austrian-Jewish Heritage Task Force at the Austrian Federal Chancellery and the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA).

The conference brought together special envoys and coordinators on combating antisemitism across Europe, representatives of Jewish communities, and representatives of the European

Commission working group on hate crime facilitated by FRA to discuss practical ways to enhance cooperation in the fight against antisemitism and to encourage reporting of antisemitic incidents.

Dr Muzicant took part in a panel discussion on collecting antisemitic hate crimes and its challenges. He was joined at the meeting by FRA Director Michael O'Flaherty, Petra Bayr, rapporteur of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), and European Commission Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life Katharina von Schnurbein, among others.

At the meeting, Dr Muzicant presented the perspective of Europe's Jewish communities with a focus to improving cooperation in the fight against antisemitism. In particular, Dr Muzicant emphasised the importance of building trust with Jewish communities and of working together towards unified methodologies across the EU for collecting data on antisemitic incidents.

The meeting was hosted by Austrian Federal Minister for EU and Constitutional affairs, Karoline Edtstadler. The President of the Jewish Community of Vienna (IKG Wien), Oskar Deutsch delivered opening remarks.

The meeting was a follow-up on the implementation of the 2018 and 2020 European Council declarations on combating antisemitism, as well as on the March 2022 Council Conclusions on combating racism and antisemitism.

MONDAY, 30 MAY 2022

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, BRUSSELS

Ariella Woitchik and Maria Bagdasarova met with cabinets of Vice-President of the European Parliament Nicola Beer, Frédérique Ries MEP and Sergey Lagodinsky MEP to discuss the plan of activities of WGAS for the remainder of 2022.

TUESDAY, 31 MAY 2022

BRUSSELS

Raya Kalenova and Ariella Woitchik attended a reception on the occasion of the 74th Anniversary of the Independence of the State of Israel hosted by H.E. Amb. Haim Regev, Head of Israeli Mission to the European Union and NATO.

WEDNESDAY - THURSDAY, 1-2 JUNE 2022

BRUSSELS

Raya Kalenova and Ariella Woitchik attended the second meeting of the European Commission working group on the implementation of the EU strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life.

Among issues discussed at the Working Group was the need to ensure the development of national strategies against antisemitism in order to achieve the full and comprehensive implementation of the EU strategy by all the member states.



Furthermore, the spread of antisemitic narratives and disinformation in the context of the Russian invasion of Ukraine was discussed.

Participants also exchanged views on the security needs of the European Jewish communities and the importance of developing a common methodology to record antisemitic incidents.

Ophir Revach, CEO of the Security and Crisis Center (SACC) by the EJC, was part of the panel discussion on the security needs of Jewish communities across the continent.

The meeting brought together representatives of national Jewish communities, international and civil society organisations, national

ministries, members of the European Parliament and high-level officers of the European Institutions.

WEDNESDAY, 15 JUNE 2022 **EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, BRUSSELS**



The European Jewish Congress participated in a briefing of the European Parliament Working Group against Antisemitism (WGAS) and the Inter-Parliamentary Task Force to Combat Online Antisemitism on the topic of online hate speech.

Clara Dutoit-Sommier from YouTube Government Affairs and Public Policy team and Eliyahou Roth, CEO at Online Antisemitism Task Force, discussed the current state of play and efforts by YouTube with regard to the problem of antisemitism in digital spaces.

The meeting was hosted by WGAS Chair Nicola Beer MEP (Renew Europe), Vice-Chairs Frédérique Ries MEP (Renew Europe) and Othmar Karas MEP (EPP), and Board members MEP David Lega (EPP) and Dietmar Köster MEP (S&D).

They were joined remotely by MP Anthony Housefather (Canada), Alex Sobel MP (UK) and Former MK Michal Cotler-Wunsh (Israel). The briefing took place in the scope of the continued cooperation between WGAS and the Inter-Parliamentary Task Force to Combat Online

Antisemitism, a cross-party group of lawmakers from Israel, the US, Canada, Australia, and the UK.

EJC Executive Vice-President and CEO Raya Kalenova, Head of Projects and Diplomatic Affairs Maria Bagdasarova and Public Affairs Officer Caroline Totaro took part in the briefing on behalf of the EJC. They were joined by B'nai B'rith International Director of EU Affairs Alina Bricman.

Frédérique Ries MEP welcomed the briefing that sought to advance the dialogue between policy makers, experts and IT companies and to raise the awareness of all stakeholders of the key areas of concern with regard to antisemitism online in order to step up the ongoing efforts and to contribute to a safer internet experience for all users.

Michal Cotler-Wunsh emphasised the transnational character of online antisemitism and called for the transparency of platforms in policy and its implementation as well as in definitions used.

Nicola Beer MEP called for the widespread use of the IHRA working definition of antisemitism in the training of both human and machine moderators on the platforms, with the definition being a universal resource to identify incidents both online and offline.

David Lega MEP stressed the importance of offering a greater level of granularity in reporting the harmful content to allow differentiation of types of hate speech (racism, antisemitism, hatred against women etc).

Raya Kalenova welcomed the dialogue between legislators and IT companies and insisted on the importance of addressing the spread of antisemitic conspiracy myths, which even when not necessarily illegal, are always harmful.

FRIDAY, 17 JUNE 2022 **BRUSSELS, EJC OFFICE**

The EJC team met with Mariano Schlimovich, Executive Director at the European Council of Jewish Communities, to discuss the ongoing cooperation and possible future joint programmes.

MONDAY, 27 JUNE 2022
BRUSSELS, DE WARANDE



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM: 'ADDRESSING CONSPIRACY THEORIES THROUGH EDUCATION'



The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the EJC co-hosted an international symposium "Addressing Conspiracy Theories Through Education" in Brussels. The event was held with an aim to strengthen educational responses through advocacy, research and training.



The event also launched UNESCO's advocacy report 'Addressing conspiracy theories: what teachers need to know'. The report is an introduction for educators, working in and outside of formal schooling, on how to identify, prevent and address conspiracy theories.

Raya Kalenova, UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay, and Landecker Foundation CEO Andreas Eberhardt delivered welcome remarks.

The event brought together governments, academia, civil society and the private sector for joint action, and had parts open for public advocacy as well as sessions of experts.

Among the speakers at the event were Katharina von Schnurbein, European Commission Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life, and Nicola Beer, Vice-President of the European Parliament and Special envoy on combating religious discrimination, including antisemitism.

The symposium was organised in cooperation with the European Commission, the Cambridge University Social Decision-Making Lab and the Alfred Landecker Foundation.

MONDAY, 27 JUNE 2022
BRUSSELS, DE WARANDE

The European Jewish Congress held its Executive Meeting on 27 June 2022 in Brussels.

The meeting was chaired by President Dr Ariel Muzicant and Executive Vice-President and CEO Raya Kalenova.

Members of the Executive discussed current challenges faced by Europe's Jewish communities and how to address them.

Dr Ariel Muzicant laid out the EJC's priorities for the second half of the year 2022 and insisted on the importance of continued efforts in the fight against antisemitism, and joint action against threats to religious rights in Europe.

The meeting also included discussions between EJC-affiliated communities on security and other important matters.

The Executive Committee concluded with a dinner hosted by the European Jewish Congress. It was attended by H.E. Nikolaus Marschik, Ambassador of Austria to the EU, H.E. Haim Regev, Ambassador of Israel to the EU and NATO, Othmar Karas, First Vice-President of the European Parliament, Nicola Beer, Vice-President of the European Parliament, Sergey Lagodinsky, Member of the European Parliament, Katharina von Schnurbein, European Commission Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life.



THURSDAY, 30 JUNE 2022
ONLINE

Ariella Woitchik, Maria Bagdasarova and Caroline Totaro met with Heather Mann, Associate Project Officer, and Karel Fracapane, Programme Specialist, Section of Global Citizenship and Peace Education, Division for Peace and Sustainable Development Education Sector at UNESCO to debrief after the international symposium 'Addressing conspiracy theories through education' and discuss future joint initiatives.

TUESDAY, 12 JULY 2022
BRUSSELS, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



Raya Kalenova participated in the seminar in the framework of the European Parliament's dialogue with churches, religious associations or communities, and philosophical and non-confessional organisations (Article 17, Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union) dedicated to the humanitarian response to the war in Ukraine.

The event was hosted by Othmar Karas, First Vice-President of the European

Parliament, responsible for Article 17 dialogue. Raya Kalenova took the floor to present the efforts of the EJC, its security arm SACC by EJC and its affiliated communities in providing help to the refugees from Ukraine.

TUESDAY, 19 JULY 2022
ONLINE

Ariella Woitchik and Xavier Ruiz participated in the online meeting between Meta and major Jewish organisations. This time, the meeting covered emerging trends in online antisemitism and Meta policies to combat Holocaust denial and distortion.

WEDNESDAY, 19 JULY 2022
ONLINE

Dr Ariel Muzicant, Dylan Bokler and Chair of EJC task force for religious rights Herbert Winter met with Gady Gronich, CEO of the Conference of European Rabbis, and Jonathan Arkush on behalf of the World Jewish Congress. A coordinating group ahead of European Commission's conference on freedom of religion with regard to religious slaughter was formed to elaborate a common position on the issue of Shehita.

TUESDAY, 26 JULY 2022
PARIS

Raya Kalenova and Ariella Woitchik participated in the farewell reception for the outgoing CRIF President Francis Kalifat hosted by the CRIF – the Representative Council of French Jewish Institutions. Raya Kalenova addressed the guests on behalf of the EJC thanking Francis Kalifat for his excellent work as CRIF President and EJC Vice-President and congratulating him on his appointment as EJC Chair of the Council.



SUNDAY, MONDAY 28-29 AUGUST 2022
BASEL, SWITZERLAND

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST ZIONIST CONGRESS IN BASEL

An EJC delegation consisting of Dr Ariel Muzicant, Raya Kalenova, and Presidents of European Jewish communities took part in the 125th anniversary of the First Zionist Congress celebratory event.

The EJC delegation joined decision-makers, Jewish leaders, businesspeople, and entrepreneurs who met to discuss the most pressing contemporary challenges for Israel and the Jewish world as well as the future of Israel's innovation and entrepreneurship.

Dr Muzicant addressed the participants on the current situation of the European diaspora at the main plenary themed "Leadership meets impact", a session which was opened by Minister of Diaspora Affairs of Israel Nachman Shai.

Dr. Muzicant stated that "after 125 years" he "will continue to strongly support the State of Israel" and as an Austrian he is "also representing Herzl and all his ideas".

In his remarks, Dr Muzicant highlighted the role of education as an essential tool to foster Jewish life in Europe and to preserve its traditions. At the same, he pointed out the critical need to defend Jewish religious rights, such as the right to practice Shehita and Brit Milah, across the continent.

Concurrently, the EJC delegation held a series of bilateral meetings with high-level political stakeholders and representatives of the Jewish world during the event.

A special gala evening took place at the Stadtcasino in which President of Israel Isaac Herzog spoke alongside Canton Basel Prime Minister Beat Jans, Minister of Economy Guy Parmelin (who is



also a former president of Switzerland) and World Zionist Organisation Chairman Yaakov Hagoel. Jewish Agency Chairman Doron Almog was also present during the ceremony.

The conference was organised by the World Zionist Organisation (WZO) in cooperation with the Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities (SIG/FSCI), EJC affiliate in the country, and the Government of the Basel Canton.

FRIDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 2022

ONLINE

Maria Bagdasarova and Xavier Ruiz met with Anika Lampe, Public Policy and Government Relations Senior Analyst at Google, to discuss YouTube's efforts in combating online hate and its Trusted Flaggers programme.

WEDNESDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 2022

NEW YORK

EJC President Ariel Muzicant and William Daroff CEO of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Associations met in New York.

They exchanged on best practices on how to prevent antisemitism in Europe and in the US, and discussed about security issues and future cooperation.



MONDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2022

BRUSSELS



Ariella Woitchik and Caroline Totaro took part in the first meeting of the Joseph Wybran Circle organised by the Coordinating Committee of Belgian Jewish Organisations (CCOJB).

The Circle was named in honour of former CCOJB President and an internationally renowned Belgian medical professor Joseph Wybran. Joseph Wybran was assassinated as a result of terrorist act on 3 October 1989 while still in office as CCOJB President. Justice has never been served in this case.

The Joseph Wybran Circle is a new discussion platform created within the CCOJB in order to coordinate information, responsibility and solidarity among its members. All year long, the circle will receive high-level personalities from the political and media sphere who will address these gatherings and exchange with participants.

At this inaugural meeting, the President of the Circle Baron Jacques Brotchi as well as CCOJB President Yohan Benizri gave opening remarks and welcomed the participants.

The guests of honour were Yonathan Arfi, President of the Representative Council of French Jewish Institutions (CRIF) and H.E. Amb. Idit Rosenzweig Abu, Israeli ambassador to Belgium and Luxembourg.

WEDNESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2022

BRUSSELS, EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Maria Bagdasarova took part in the round table of major Jewish organisations hosted by the office of the European Commission Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life Katharina von Schnurbein.

WEDNESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2022
BRUSSELS, UGC TOISON D'OR CINEMA



The European Jewish Congress held a preview screening of 'Simone Veil, a Woman of the Century' in partnership with Warner Bros. production company. The screening took place in the presence of the film's director Olivier Dahan and the lead actress Elsa Zylberstein.

More than 300 guests including European Commission officials, Brussels MPs and members of the Belgian Jewish community gathered in the UGC Toison D'Or cinema to preview this poignant film about the journey of a Holocaust survivor, an exceptional stateswoman, and the first elected president of the European Parliament Simone Veil through the pivotal events of the 20th century.

THURSDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 2022
BRUSSELS, ISRAELI MISSION TO THE EU AND NATO

Caroline Totaro took part in a briefing given to Brussels-based Jewish organisations by H.E. Amb. Haim Regev, Head of Israeli Mission to the EU and NATO. The political situation and latest developments in Israel and in the surrounding region were discussed.

WEDNESDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2022
ONLINE

Dr Ariel Muzicant participated in the combined meeting of the Council of the World Jewish Restitution Organisation and its Executive Committee.

MONDAY, 3 OCTOBER 2022
BRUSSELS, EMBASSY OF GERMANY

Ariella Woitchik attended the reception hosted by H.E. Ambassador Martin Kotthaus, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Belgium, on the occasion of the German Reunification Day.

THURSDAY, 6 OCTOBER 2022
BRUSSELS, EJC OFFICE

The EJC team met with Alina Bricman, Director of European Union Affairs, and Emily Bowman, Policy Officer at B'nai B'rith International to discuss the ongoing cooperation with the BBI in the framework of the Advisory Board of the European Parliament Working Group against Antisemitism.

THURSDAY, 13 OCTOBER 2022
BRUSSELS, EJC OFFICE

The EJC Office met with Avital Grinberg, the newly elected President of the European Union of Jewish Students, to discuss future joint initiatives aiming at improving the wellbeing of young European Jews.



19-20 OCTOBER 2022
BRUSSELS, EUROPEAN COMMISSION

EJC President Dr Ariel Muzicant took part in the conference 'Freedom of Religion with regard to religious slaughter'.

The conference was organised by the European Commission in partnership with the Council of Europe, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC).

EJC President spoke about the current challenges on freedom of religion, especially focusing on the worrying threats to the practice of Shechita and Brit Milah across the continent.

At the same time, a document introducing Jewish Religious Slaughter to the general public, jointly drafted by the European Jewish Congress, the World Jewish Congress, and the Conference of European Rabbis, was distributed to the participants.

The conference brought together representatives of EU Member States and other national authorities, special envoys and coordinators



on combating antisemitism and anti-Muslim hatred, representatives of national Jewish, Muslim, and other religious communities, international organisations, and independent experts.

Among the speakers were Vice-President of the European Commission Margaritis Schinas, European Commission Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life Katharina von Schnurbein, United States Special Envoy for Monitoring and Combating Antisemitism Amb. Deborah Lipstadt, European Parliament Vice-President Nicola Beer and High Representative of the UNAOC Miguel Moratinos.

FRIDAY, 20-23 OCTOBER 2022
BUDVA, MONTENEGRO



The European Jewish Congress took part in the 9th Mahar Conference organised by the Jewish community of Montenegro in Budva.

Head of Projects and Diplomatic Affairs Maria Bagdasarova and SACC by EJC Head of Crisis Management Dany Choueka represented the EJC at the event gathering 450 Jewish participants from across southeast Europe.



Maria Bagdasarova delivered remarks during the opening ceremony alongside President of the Parliament of Montenegro Danijela Đurović, Ambassador of the State of Israel to Serbia and Montenegro H.E. Yahel Vilan, President of the Jewish community of Montenegro Nina Ofner Bokan, World Jewish Congress Director of Community Affairs Maya Samokovlija, and Chief Rabbi of Croatia and Montenegro Luciano Moše Prelević.



Additionally, Maria Bagdasarova and Dany Choueka delivered a lecture entitled: "European Jewish Congress and SACC by EJC: uniting and protecting Jewish communities across Europe". They presented the activities of the EJC and SACC by EJC focusing on recent achievements in the fight against antisemitism and fostering Jewish life at the European level, on humanitarian assistance to refugees

from Ukraine, and on the cooperation with other faith organisations on protection of places of worship. Dany Choueka also briefed the participants on the basics of security and crisis management.

TUESDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2022
BRUSSELS, PRESS CLUB

SASCE (SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES IN EUROPE)
PROJECT PRESS CONFERENCE

For the first time, Buddhist, Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities are working together on a common project to improve security in places of worship across Europe: SASCE (Safer and Stronger communities in Europe).

The risk towards faith institutions has markedly increased over the last decade and the SASCE project acknowledges this and was supported by the European Commission Internal Security Fund to meet the advice, capacity and risk assessment needs of faith institutions around risk to them and their congregations.

The SASCE project has worked across 15 European countries since April 2021 and has advised tens of churches, mosques, Buddhist temples and synagogues, given the risks to them because of geo-political events and how people are radicalised by these events as well as theft risks to them as the economic situation in Europe takes a sharp downturn over the last 6 months.

The partner agencies in the SASCE project include the Security and Crisis Centre by the European Jewish Congress, the Conference of European Churches, the European Buddhist Union and Faith Matters Europe. The SASCE project assesses, reviews and advises faith institutions on extremist risks, risk to faith leaders because of congregants who may suffer from acute emotional or mental health issues, as well as theft risks to them. It therefore looks at external and internal risks to these faith institutions.

Commenting on the SASCE project, the Chief Executive Officer of SACC by EJC, Ophir Revach said: "It is essential that we get a mindset shift within faith communities. The old days of "God protects us" need to be addressed in reality because faith institutions can help themselves through security advice and information through the SASCE project. We know that there are multiple risks to these faith institutions and half of what we do, is to get a mindset shift in the leadership before our work with them truly gets underway".

CCOJB former President Yohan Benizri reminded the audience "before we can have pride in our values and practice our faith, we need to have



safe places of worship. Security it is not a value in itself, it is a condition to flourish. When you are protecting minorities and congregations of any size, you are protecting democracy."

From his personal experience as the former leader of the Belgian Jewish community, Benizri thanked "the incredible work of SACC by EJC" adding, "the level of security awareness and risk assessment within Belgian Jewish communities has increased dramatically. Our expertise and good relations with other minorities has been the perfect ground to apply the lessons of SASCE."

Iman Atta OBE, the Chief Executive officer of Faith Matters Europe said: "The SASCE project means standing in solidarity with all faith communities, whilst logging and monitoring risks to faith institutions. Over the last 24 months attacks against synagogues and mosques across Europe have increased and many of the faith leaders of these institutions don't know what to do. Through SASCE, their awareness and confidence to report in targeted attacks will grow and we also hope that they will be able to risk plan for their respective faith institution."

"We are exceptionally grateful for the support that the European Commission have given to the SASCE project which is unique in this area of work across Europe."

CEC Executive Secretary for Human Rights Dr Elizabeta Kitanovic said: "The SASCE project is important for the European churches as it offers concrete advice on how to protect religious communities, worship places and our Christian cultural heritage from increasing security risks, threats and challenges. It also offers a proper scheme of crisis management, which is adaptable to every religious community."

WEDNESDAY, 26 OCTOBER 2022

BRUSSELS, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Ariella Woitchik and Caroline Totaro met with Xavier Bellamy MEP to discuss pressing issues faced by Europe's Jewish communities and to present EJC's activities and possible opportunities for collaboration in the framework of the European Parliament Working Group against Antisemitism (WGAS).

THURSDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2022

ONLINE

Caroline Totaro and Dylan Bokler took part in an online presentation of Fundamental Rights Agency's (FRA) third survey on discrimination and life as a Jew in Europe.

MONDAY, 7 NOVEMBER 2022

ONLINE

Xavier Ruiz participated in the online meeting between Meta and major Jewish organisations. This time, the meeting covered an independent assessment of Meta's human rights impact in Israel and Palestine.

TUESDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2022

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Raya Kalenova and Ariella Woitchik attended the opening of the exhibition '#Fakeimages – Unmask the dangers of stereotypes', hosted by the European Commission. The exhibition was curated by the Kazerne Dossin "Memorial, Museum and Research Centre on Holocaust and Human Rights" in Mechelen and based on the collection of the Arthur Langerman Archive for the Study of Visual Antisemitism. European Commission's Vice-President for Promoting Our European Way of Life Margaritis Schinas addressed the event that took place on the occasion of the commemoration of the 1938 Pogrom night – "Kristallnacht".



TUESDAY- WEDNESDAY, 15-16 NOVEMBER 2022

BRUSSELS



The European Jewish Congress held its annual meeting of directors of affiliated Jewish communities.

Over 30 representatives from more than 25 Jewish communities across Europe travelled to Brussels to discuss recent developments in their countries, exchange best practices, and address opportunities and challenges ahead.

EJC President Dr Ariel Muzicant opened the meeting praising the unity and solidarity of European Jewish communities in overcoming the challenges of the previous years. Dr Muzicant laid the pressing issues ahead and emphasized the importance of working together to defend Jewish traditions and values and to foster a positive and proud Jewish identity.



The first session of the meeting was held in a form of a roundtable discussion where representatives of Jewish communities presented updates from their countries.

Inna Ioffe, Executive Director of the Jewish Confederation of Ukraine, gave a moving presentation about the impact of the war on the Jewish community.

Avital Grinberg, President of the European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS), who also took part in the meeting, presented the advocacy work and latest initiatives carried out by European Jewish youth.

Afterwards, EJC affiliated communities' representatives had the opportunity to visit the European Parliament and participate in the conference "Jewish life in Europe: celebrating diversity and fostering solidarity in times of crisis" organised by the European Jewish Congress and Bnai Brith International, hosted by the European Parliament Working Group Against Antisemitism (WGAS).

During the second day, participants had the possibility to exchange views with H.E. Amb. Haim Regev, Head of the Mission of Israel to the European Union and NATO, and Laurent Muschel, Director of Internal Security and Counterterrorism at the European Commission. EU Funding Expert Johanan Seynave briefed the participants on the EU funding opportunities.

The EJC Directors' meeting took place ahead of the Civil Society Forum on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life organised by the European Commission.

TUESDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2022 BRUSSELS – EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The European Jewish Congress, together with B'nai B'rith International, organised a conference entitled 'Jewish life in Europe: celebrating diversity and fostering solidarity in times of crisis', hosted by the European Parliament Working Group against Antisemitism (WGAS).

The conference held at the heart of European democracy brought together policymakers, Jewish community representatives and actors from the civil society who are driving efforts to promote a positive

Jewish identity and to increase knowledge about Jewish life among the general public. Panelists shed light on the important contribution of Jewish communities to European society and explained the humanitarian efforts offered by Jewish civil society organisations to Ukrainian refugees.

EJC Director of European Affairs Ariella Woitchik, who moderated the event, opened the discussion emphasizing the purpose of the conference: "We wanted to resume our activities in the European Parliament with a more positive angle. Therefore, we are here today to celebrate Jewish culture, history, tradition, diversity and sense of belonging to Europe."

In his opening remarks, MEP and WGAS Vice-Chair Sergey Lagodinsky said: "This event is meant to highlight Jewish voices from all our Member States. We wanted to shed a positive light on what it means to be Jewish in the European Union, underlining that our Jewish identity is intertwined with our European identity."

EJC CEO and Vice President Raya Kalenova highlighted the importance of reinforcing a positive Jewish identity: "We need to continually stress our diversity, to destroy the myth of the stereotypical Jew in the minds of conspiracy theorists and haters. It does not exist, it has never existed. We just would not be Jews if it was. Jewish life must never be defined only by antisemitism because it would then be defined by antisemites. As a free people, with as long a history on this continent as everyone else, it's time to accentuate the positive."

"Faced with external threats, we understand the need to come together with our friends and allies. The best example illustrating this sense of solidarity is SASCE project: Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Buddhist communities joined forces to improve security in places of worship across the European Union. We are also proud of SACC by EJC and EJC's affiliated Jewish communities that have been working around the clock to offer support to refugees, opening their arms, their pockets, and their homes to thousands of Ukrainian Jews and non-Jews," she added.



Co-founder of Limmud and Chief Executive of the Commonwealth Jewish Council Clive A. Lawton OBE presented the successful story of Limmud, the international Jewish adult education movement: "Limmud means learning in Hebrew. An educator is someone who has the responsibility of transmitting something to someone else."

Lawton shared his thoughts on his extensive experience educating about and bringing visibility to Jewish life among non-Jewish audience: "At Limmud we try to bring people together, it unites generations and denominations. Everyone who wants to get involved, can get involved. The organisation is not driven by franchises or rules, it is driven by values and principles," he added.

The President of the European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS) Avital Grinberg introduced to the public the work of the EUJS with other minorities, stressing: "If we want to fight antisemitism, we have to fight against any kind of hate. If we want to fight for a flourishing and diverse Jewish life, we better fight for a flourishing and diverse Europe."

The Former President of the Jewish Community of Warsaw Leslaw Piszewski explained the humanitarian efforts that have been carried out under his leadership since the war in Ukraine broke out. Thousands of Ukrainian refugees, Jews and non-Jews, found not only shelter in his community but also care and support: "When the war started, the number of Ukrainian refugees arriving to Poland rose dramatically, from hour to hour, but we didn't give up and we decided to help everyone in need, providing them with all kinds of assistance. The first organization that supported us immediately with this task was the EJC."

Finally, MEP Nicola Beer, Vice-President of the European Parliament and Chair of WGAS delivered concluding remarks, emphasising: "As MEPs, we have a special responsibility to work with & for the citizens we represent. Therefore, at the Parliament we must not only work on remembrance or the fight against antisemitism but to foster Jewish life in the diversity we see today."

"If we want Jewish life to flourish in Europe, we need to raise awareness of its diversity, which is part of our common European Heritage. I cannot think of European history without the contribution of Jewish intellectuals and scientists. We are proud of them, and we need to make them more visible," she concluded.

The conference was attended by Ambassador Haim Regev, Head of Israeli Mission to the EU and NATO, Ambassador of Hungary to Belgium Tamas Kovacz, Ambassador of Bulgaria to Belgium Plamen Bonchev, Members of the European Parliament, representatives of the European Commission, civil society organisations officials as well as presidents and directors of Jewish communities from 25 countries.

WEDNESDAY – THURSDAY, 16-17 NOVEMBER 2022 BRUSSELS

Raya Kalenova, Maria Bagdasarova and Caroline Totaro participated in the Civil Society Forum on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life organised by the European Commission in Brussels.

This was the first edition of the new flagship initiative fixed in the EU Strategy on combatting antisemitism and fostering Jewish life. The event brought together more than 200 civil society organisations active in the field.

EJC Executive Vice-President and CEO Raya Kalenova delivered a keynote address at the dinner alongside Sergey Lagodinsky, member of the European Parliament and Vice-Chair of the Working Group against Antisemitism.

'It is vital for public institutions to work hand in hand with civil society organizations and local communities to strengthen the collective fight against antisemitism. To understand and comprehend the scourges that corrupt our societies, decision-makers must listen and be familiar with the daily struggles and concerns of the citizens and minorities they represent. This is what democracy is all about,' Raya Kalenova said in her remarks.

'As written in the strategy, combating antisemitism is a shared responsibility and it requires joint efforts and actions at every level. At the EJC we share this commitment, and we are sure we will continue working together as partners and allies to address the growing challenges that the European Jewish communities are facing,' she added.

Raya Kalenova also commended the valuable work and long-standing support and commitment to the cause from the European Commission Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life Katharina von Schnurbein and her team.

Civil Society Forum on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life was held in a form of a participatory networking event. Representatives of civil society organisations, Jewish communities, museums, research centres, the EU institutions and others came together to discuss the current challenges in combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life, to learn more about EU funding opportunities, and to network and brainstorm about strategies, actions and projects that can be developed to further step up the efforts against antisemitism and to foster Jewish life.



**MONDAY - TUESDAY, 21-22
NOVEMBER 2022
ROME - VATICAN**



An EJC delegation consisting of President Dr Ariel Muzicant and Executive Vice-President and CEO Raya Kalenova took part in the Executive Committee meeting of the World Jewish Congress (WJC) held in Rome and Vatican City.

The meeting focused on the renewal of relations between the Jewish Community and the Catholic Church. The initiative "Kishreinu" (our bond in Hebrew) was launched with the intention to strengthen Jewish-Catholic ties around the globe.

The participants also had the opportunity to attend an audience with His Holiness Pope Francis in the Apostolic Palace.

**WEDNESDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2022
PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC**



EJC President Ariel Muzicant and President of the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic Petr Papoušek met in Prague with Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala, whose country holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

They discussed the danger posed by extremist parties to our democracies, the rise of antisemitism online, and the importance of protecting Jewish religious rights.

**THURSDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2022
BRUSSELS, PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF
THE CZECH REPUBLIC TO THE EU**

Maria Bagdasarova and Xavier Ruiz participated in the expert meeting "Nazi Memorabilia and their misuse to antisemitic ends" hosted by the Czech Presidency in the Council of the European Union.

The event was attended by delegates from the EU member states law enforcement authorities, ministries of justice, ministries of the interior, public prosecutor's offices, government offices, Permanent Representations, European Commission, General Secretariat of the Council, and Jewish umbrella organisations. The speakers included representatives of the academic and non-governmental sectors and the Office of the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator.

**TUESDAY – WEDNESDAY 6-7
DECEMBER 2022
THE HAGUE**

Dylan Bokler participated in the 3rd meeting of the European Commission Working Group on the implementation of the EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life. This time it was organised by the Dutch National Coordinator on combating antisemitism and was hosted by the Netherlands Ministry of Justice and Security.

The meeting addressed the following topics: updates on national strategies, countering online antisemitism, moving forward on fostering Jewish life.



13-14 DECEMBER 2022
PARIS



The EJC held its Executive Meeting in cooperation with the CRIF – Representative Council of French Jewish Institutions in Paris. Members of the Executive discussed current challenges faced by Europe’s Jewish communities and how to address them.

The meeting included discussions on security, the rise of the far right and far left across Europe, and threats to religious rights.

At the same time, Members of the Executive had the possibility to hear from Isabelle Rome, French Minister for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunities, on France’s upcoming plan on combatting racism and antisemitism and from Karel Francapane, Programme Specialist in the Section of Global Citizenship and Peace Education at UNESCO, on UNESCO’s programmes in the field of fighting antisemitism and Holocaust remembrance.

The EJC Executive Committee also enjoyed a guided tour of the permanent collection of the Museum of Jewish Art and History by its Director Paul Salmona.

16-17 JANUARY 2023
JERUSALEM



Dr Ariel Muzicant took part in the European Jewish Leadership Conference in Jerusalem organised by the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The event gathered about 40 heads of Jewish communities from 28 European countries. The topics of discussion included the relations between Israel and the Diaspora, the challenges in Europe and the rise of antisemitism, both online and offline.

During the conference, Dr Ariel Muzicant had the opportunity to meet Israeli President Isaac Herzog as well as Minister of Diaspora Affairs Amichai Chikli.

23 JANUARY 2023
BRUSSELS – SOLVAY LIBRARY

The EJC partnered with the European Commission, the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the EU, and the Swedish Presidency of IHRA in the organisation of the Holocaust Remembrance Conference “Remembering the past, Shaping the Future” that took place in Brussels on the 23 of January 2023 on the occasion of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The conference was organised in partnership with Jewish organisations such as the AJC Transatlantic Institute, B’nai B’rith Europe, B’nai B’rith International, European Jewish Community Center, European Union of Jewish Students, and World Jewish Congress.



Among the speakers were Vice-President of the European Commission Margaritis Schinas, European Commission Coordinator on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life Katherina von Schnurbein, Swedish Minister for Gender Equality and Deputy Minister for Employment Paulina Brandberg, Chair of the Swedish Presidency of IHRA Ambassador Ann Bernes and IHRA Honorary Chair Professor Yehuda Bauer.

Participants had the opportunity to hear a testimony from Holocaust Survivor Henriette Kretz followed by the reading of a letter from the Warsaw Ghetto and a musical interlude by Musica Mundi students.

During the commemoration ceremony, EJC President Dr Ariel Muzicant lit the first candle honoring the memory of the six million Jewish men, women, and children who were murdered in the Holocaust.

The conference concluded with a panel discussion featuring Director of Zachor Foundation Hungary and Acting Deputy Director of Programs at USC Shoah Foundation Andrea Szónyi, Associate Professor in Archaeology at Cambridge University and IHRA Delegate and Chair of “Safeguarding” Sites” Project Dr Gilly Carr and Founder and Managing Director of the Agency “what matters” Dr Andreas Kahrs on “Where the Holocaust Happened”.

**IHRD 2023: SPECIAL SCREENING OF
'SIMONE VEIL,
A WOMAN OF THE CENTURY'
24 JANUARY 2023
BRUSSELS - BOZAR**



On the occasion of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the EJC and the European Parliament Working Group Against Antisemitism (WGAS) held a special screening of "Simone Veil, a Woman of the Century" with the participation of renowned French philosopher, filmmaker and playwright Bernard-Henri Lévy.

Dr Ariel Muzicant and Vice President of the European Parliament and Chair of WGAS Nicola Beer addressed 400 guests, including ambassadors, MEPs and EU high-level officials, who gathered to commemorate the Holocaust and its victims, and to honour the memory of Simone Veil.

"In today's dangerous political climate, where uncertainty and despair cloud our horizon, we need to continue fighting against those that threaten democracy and human rights," Dr. Muzicant said. "We must not lose our determination to fight these force, because if we refuse to fight, hatred and intolerance will prevail."

"This year, as we also mark the 80th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, those heroes and their ultimate sacrifice, must be an inspiration to us all. Their legacy directs us to continue the fight against those who once again are challenging our societies with their discrimination, racism and antisemitism."

"As we look back in time, we have to remind ourselves to never forget about what happened all these years ago, to honour those who suffered and to prevent such terrible crimes from ever happening again," said Vice President of the European Parliament and Chair of the Working Group against Antisemitism Nicola Beer. "Sadly, in today's world, we still have to fight against antisemitism and religious discrimination, but I am determined that it is a fight worth fighting."

"What we can do, however, is celebrate occasions such as Holocaust Remembrance Week, we can celebrate and honour people like Simone Veil, we can fight the fight together. Every single person in this room can do something, speak up, create awareness, fight for justice, and not ignore what should be blatantly obvious to everyone- making people feel unwelcome or inadequate due to their religion, their beliefs, their appearance or any other criteria is not only heartless, it is unacceptable."

During his remarks, French philosopher, filmmaker and playwright Bernard-Henri Lévy spoke about his feelings on the current state of antisemitism, intolerance and discrimination.

"I'm pessimistic and optimistic. Of course, antisemitism has not disappeared and certainly reinvents itself, because now it's all about Israel," Lévy said. "In this sense, I see the way the devil reincarnates itself at every step of our history. However, I'm also optimistic because there are strong forces of resistance against it, being led by Jewish organizations, like the EJC, which holds firm and delivers on its pledge to fight antisemitism. This didn't exist 40 years ago."

"There is a pride, a self-affirmation and a calm about the new way of being a Jew today, especially when I think how undefended the Jews were when I was a teenager, when we had no weapons, and many were even ashamed of being a Jew. When you are ashamed and shy, and you don't dare to accept your identity, you are vulnerable."

**25 JANUARY 2023
BRUSSELS, EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

Ariel Muzicant and Raya Kalenova held a meeting with European Commission Vice-President Margaritis Schinas. They discussed the current challenges faced by European Jewish Communities, the need to fight against antisemitism and strengthen Jewish communal security.



25 JANUARY 2023
BRUSSELS



Ariel Muzicant and Raya Kalenova attended a dinner in honour of the President of Israel Isaac Herzog organised by the Israeli Embassy in Belgium and the Mission to the EU and hosted by the World Jewish Congress.

26 JANUARY 2023
BRUSSELS – EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



The EJC team participated in a special plenary session of the European Parliament to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day. President of the European Parliament Roberta Metsola chaired the event and Israeli President Isaac Herzog addressed the ceremony with a keynote address.

The ceremony was followed by the inauguration of a permanent Holocaust memorial in the European Parliament. President Herzog and President Metsola unveiled "The Refugee", an art piece by Felix Nussbaum, who perished in the Shoah. The piece reflects the fear and desperation of the artist on the eve of WWII and a grim reality: for the Jew, there is no refuge. The series of commemoration events in the European Parliament concluded with the moving testimony of Holocaust survivor Alberto Israel.

27 JANUARY 2023
BRUSSELS

EJC Public Affairs Officer Caroline Totaro took part in a ceremony held in honour of Youra Livschitz, Jean Franklemon and Robert Maistriau, three young resistants who on 19 April 1943 attacked the train of the 20th convoy carrying 1,631 Jews from the Dossin barracks in Mechelen, Belgium to Auschwitz near Boortmeerbeek.



30 JANUARY 2023
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT BRUSSELS

The EJC took part in the Board meeting of the European Parliament Working Group against Antisemitism to discuss the group's plan of action for the first half of 2023. WGAS Board members also heard reports from Katerina Vyzvaldova of the European Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) on the findings of FRA's 18th annual overview of data on antisemitism and from Dr Susanne Urban and Tomasz Wlodarski on "Moreshet - European-wide, value-orientated network dedicated to foster awareness of the Jewish Heritage of Europe".



**6-7 FEBRUARY 2023
EJC GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND GALA
DINNER
BRUSSELS**



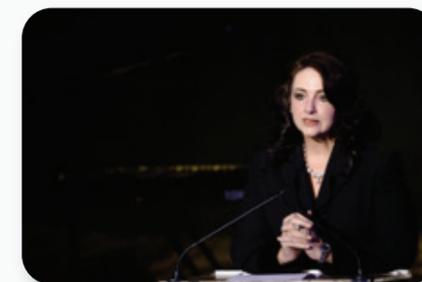
The European Jewish Congress held its General Assembly. Leaders from over 30 Jewish communities across Europe gathered in Belgium to discuss recent developments, exchange on best practices, and address opportunities and challenges ahead.

EJC President Dr Ariel Muzicant, Chair of the Council Francis Kalifat, and Executive Vice-President and CEO Raya Kalenova chaired the General Assembly.

EJC General Assembly unanimously confirmed the mandate of Dr Ariel Muzicant as Interim President until the end of 2024, expressing its complete confidence in his leadership. At the same time, EJC and SACC by EJC budget for 2023 and 2024 was confirmed.

Dr Ariel Muzicant laid out EJC's priorities for 2023 and insisted on the importance of continued efforts in the fight against antisemitism, fostering of Jewish life and culture, and joint action against threats to religious rights in Europe.

A large number of initiatives were discussed for the following years including Jewish education, cultural programs, and outreach to smaller communities to preserve and foster Jewish life.





Community leaders had the possibility to exchange views with H.E. Amb. Haim Regev, Head of the Mission of Israel to the European Union and NATO and Sharon Buenos, Global Director of Zikaron BaSalon.



The General Assembly was concluded with a gala dinner at the Théâtre du Vaudeville, which brought together ambassadors, Members of the European Parliament, high-level officials of the European union institutions, members of the diplomatic corps, as well as Jewish leaders, professionals and experts.

European Commissioner for Equality Helena Dalli honoured the EJC with her presence and expressed her commitment and the

one of the EU to fostering Jewish life in all its diversity: "We want to see Jewish life thriving again in the heart of our communities. As it should. We owe it to those who perished in the Holocaust, we owe it to survivors and we owe it to future generations."

European Parliament Vice-President and Chair of the Working Group against Antisemitism (WGAS) Nicola Beer also addressed the audience, ensuring her unwavering support to European Jewish communities in the fight against antisemitism and the flourishing of Jewish life and culture.

EJC Members payed tribute to the Belgian victims of the Shoah by visiting the exhibition "236- LAND (ES) CAPES from the 20th Convoy" at the Jewish Museum of Belgium.

9 FEBRUARY 2023 EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Ariella Woitchik addressed the Democracy, Rule of Law, and Fundamental Rights Monitoring Group (DRFMG) of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice, and Home Affairs (LIBE) of the European Parliament.

She was joined by European Commission Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life Katherina von Schnurbein and FRA's expert Katerina Vyzvaldova.



DRFMG members held an exchange of views on antisemitism in the EU.

"As a consequence of horrific antisemitic incidents and the fact that antisemitism has become normalized, Jews don't feel safe walking around the streets of Europe wearing religious signs. Many European Jews feel afraid of expressing their identity online and offline," said Ms Woitchik to the members of the group.

"When a human tragedy happens, young people and influencers launch movements on social networks and rightly so...however where were they when a grandmother was murdered in her home in Paris because she was Jewish?"

The DRFMG group is focused on threats to democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights, as well as the fight against corruption within the EU, across all Member States. It is meant to recommend specific actions to the LIBE Committee, such as meetings with stakeholders, hearings and missions, as well as to make suggestions for proposals for resolutions and reports.

13 FEBRUARY 2023 PARIS

Raya Kalenova and Ariella Woitchik attended CRIF annual dinner at the Carrousel du Louvre in Paris.

The event brings together French and international Jewish leaders as well as politicians, ambassadors, artists, religious figures and media personalities.

French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne was this year's guest of honour. During her address she called to "fight antisemitism with all our might, wherever it is and wherever it is hiding" and explained the story of her family, in particular the deportation of her father to Auschwitz.



"Together with my grandfather and my uncles, he was arrested by the Gestapo. Then came the sealed wagons, the orders, the beatings, the humiliations. Drancy, Auschwitz. They were 1,250 at the start. Only six came back."

Borne also recalled her wish that "each student in France makes at least one visit to a place of memory during their years at

school", one of the measures of the new plan to fight against racism, antisemitism and discrimination on the grounds of origin for the years 2023-2026, presented three weeks earlier.

Yonathan Arfi, President of CRIF, recalled the role of education in the fight "against hatred". "Antisemitism is also taking new forms," he said, citing in particular "Islamism", "conspiracy theories" and "hatred towards Israel".

Arfi also insisted on the positive narratives to fight ignorance: "The fact of being Jewish should be considered as a positive cultural fact."

27 FEBRUARY 2023 EJC OFFICE – BRUSSELS



EJC hosted a delegation of young Jewish activists as part of the 2023 EU Activism Seminar organised by the European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS).

The EU Activism seminar is a flagship initiative of the European Union of Jewish Students to introduce young Jewish activists to the EU institutions and the advocacy efforts of Jewish civil society organisations.

Maria Bagdasarova, Dylan Bokler, Caroline Totaro and Xavier Ruiz presented the activities of the European Jewish Congress at the EU level as well as the organisation's work with the affiliated communities.

This was the eight time that the EUJS EU Activism delegation visited the EJC, signalling the strong partnership, friendship and commitment of both organisations in the service of European Jewish communities.

1 MARCH 2023 EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



Maria Bagdasarova and Caroline Totaro participated in the briefing on antisemitism and hate speech in the online sphere organised by Frédérique Ries MEP. The briefing was a follow-up to the reporting action of antisemitic content posted online "MEPs strike back (Part II)" campaign initiated by MEP Ries.

Experts of the "Online Hate Task Force" presented the outcome of the reporting action and briefed the participants on the current state of play in IT companies and treatment of online hate speech, the experts also detailed about terrorism incitement online and antisemitism in the Palestinian textbooks. Representatives of the Belgian Federal police reported on online violent speech and terrorism.

7 MARCH 2023 BRUSSELS, EJC OFFICE

Raya Kalenova and Maria Bagdasarova met with MEP Rasa Juknevičienė (EPP, Lithuania) to discuss the work of the European Jewish Congress and the EP Working Group against Antisemitism, and explore possible areas of cooperation.

7 MARCH 2023

BRUSSELS, EMBASSY OF BULGARIA

Raya Kalenova and Ariella Woitchik attended the reception on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Bulgaria hosted by Ambassador of Bulgaria to Belgium and Luxembourg Plamen Bonchev.

10 MARCH 2023

BRUSSELS, EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Ariella Woitchik and Dylan Bokler took part in the round table of major Jewish organisations hosted by the office of the European Commission Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life Katharina von Schnurbein. The round table was dedicated to the ongoing FRA 3rd FRA Survey on 'Perceptions and Experiences of Antisemitism'.

12 MARCH 2023

SKOPJE, NORTH MACEDONIA



EJC took part in the commemoration ceremonies marking the 80th anniversary of the deportation of 7144 Macedonian Jews to the Treblinka death camp. The events were organised by the Jewish community in the Republic of North Macedonia under the patronage of the country's government.

The European Jewish Congress was represented by Head of Projects and Diplomatic Affairs Maria Bagdasarova and Head of Crisis Management Elie Kagan.

The events in Skopje commenced with a march under the slogan "Never Again!" from the Museum of the City of Skopje, the Old Railway Station, and a commemoration ceremony at the Old Monopol Tobacco Factory – the same places where Jews were deported from in March 1943. The participants were addressed by President of the Republic of North Macedonia Stevo Pendarovski, Deputy Prime Minister Fatmir Bytyqi, President of the Macedonian Jewish Community Pepo Levi, MK Hamad Amar, Chair of the Israel-North Macedonia Parliamentary Friendship Group, and Ernest Herzog, World Jewish Congress

Representative in South-East Europe. Maria Bagdasarova delivered remarks on behalf of the European Jewish Congress.

The events proceeded with wreath-laying ceremonies at the monument to the deported Jews in Skopje and at the city's cemetery and closed with a commemorative concert at the National Opera and Ballet which was addressed by Prime Minister of the Republic of North Macedonia Dimitar Kovachevski, Israeli Ambassador to the Republic of North Macedonia Simona Frankel and Rabbi Andrew Baker of the American Jewish Committee.

The opening of the exhibition "Macedonia Remembers. Never Forget" of the State Archive of the Republic of North Macedonia in cooperation with the Institute for National History was also held at the Holocaust Memorial Center of the Jews of Macedonia.

During the World War Two, the territory of the present-day Republic of North Macedonia was occupied and administered by the Nazi Germany ally Bulgaria, whose pro-fascist authorities rounded up Jews from Vardar Macedonia and Greek Thrace in March 1943. 7144 Jews from Skopje, Bitola and Stip comprising 98 percent of Macedonia's wartime Jewish population were deported and exterminated in the Treblinka death camp.

14 MARCH 2023

BRUSSELS, PRESS CLUB

The EJC team attended the launch of report "On Europe's Streets: Annual Marches Glorifying Nazism" issued by B'nai B'rith International and the Amadeu Antonio Foundation.

15 MARCH 2023

ONLINE

EJC Task force on education and fostering Jewish life formed following the General Assembly held its first meeting with the aim of developing tailor-made programs to foster Jewish life in each individual Jewish community.

21 MARCH 2023

POLAND

Caroline Totaro participated in a remembrance visit to the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camps organised by Radio Judaica, the official Jewish radio station in Belgium, and supported by the European

Jewish Congress. The delegation was accompanied by Alberto Israel, a 96-year-old Holocaust survivor from Rhodes, Greece, currently residing in Belgium.

23 MARCH 2023 **BRUSSELS, ISRAELI MISSION**

Ariella Woitchik took part in the briefing by Haim Regev, Head of Israeli Mission to the EU and NATO, for Brussels-based Jewish organisations.

28 MARCH 2023 **BRUSSELS, EMBASSY OF GREECE**

Raya Kalenova and Ariella Woitchik attended the reception on the occasion of the National Day of Greece hosted by Ambassador of Greece to Belgium Dionyssios Kalamvrezos.

31 MARCH 2023 **BRUSSELS, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

Maria Bagdasarova met with Alina Bricman, Director of European Union Affairs at B'nai B'rith International, and the cabinet of Nicola Beer, Vice-President of the European Parliament, to discuss the preparations for the conference "80 Years Since the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising: Perspectives on Resistance Then and Now" to be hosted by the European Parliament Working Group against Antisemitism (WGAS).

4 APRIL 2023 **JERUSALEM, ISRAEL**

Ariel Muzicant met with Minister of Diaspora Affairs Amichai Chikli to discuss the possibility of enhancing cooperation between the ministry and the Jewish Diaspora in Europe.

13 APRIL 2023 **BRUSSELS, AJC OFFICE**

The EJC team met with the Transatlantic Institute of the American Jewish Committee to discuss opportunities to enhance collaboration in the field of combating antisemitism in Europe.

17-18 APRIL 2023 **VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

EJC Director of European Affairs Ariella Woitchik addressed the European Conference on Antisemitism organised by the Austrian Federal Ministry for EU and Constitutional Affairs.

The conference brought together Special envoys and coordinators on combating antisemitism across Europe, representatives of member states and Jewish organisations, and officials of European Union Institutions to discuss practical ways to enhance cooperation in the fight against antisemitism and strengthen the reporting of antisemitic incidents.

Karoline Edtstadler, Federal Minister for the EU and the Constitution at the Austrian Federal Chancellery opened the conference alongside IKG President Oskar Deutsch and Maram Stern, Executive Vice President of the World Jewish Congress.

Ariella Woitchik spoke about the need to restore confidence among European Jewish communities when it comes to reporting antisemitic incidents to relevant authorities.

"Only a clear and unified framework will give reassurances to Jewish citizens across Europe that they will be heard when reporting an antisemitic incident. Being a victim is already very hard in itself, feeling afraid or helpless to denounce what you have gone through is a continuation of your suffering. If public authorities want to restore the confidence of their Jewish citizens the answer is to act more swiftly against antisemitic incidents, and develop and apply stronger criminal laws against antisemitic hate crimes, that must be recognized as such," said EJC Director of European Affairs.

She continued by expressing her gratitude on behalf of EJC's affiliated communities to Austria, which leads by example when it comes to fighting antisemitism, preserving the memory of the Holocaust, and fostering Jewish life.

EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) Director Michael O'Flaherty also participated in the conference and reminded the participants on the urgent need to tackle antisemitism and to honour and celebrate Jewish life and culture.

Later that day, Ariella Woitchik attended a roundtable on the current state of antisemitism in Austria hosted by the President of the Austrian National Council Wolfgang Sobotka at the Austrian Parliament as part of the European Conference on Antisemitism. Participants discussed the findings of the third survey on antisemitism commissioned by the Austrian parliament.



19 APRIL 2023

BRUSSELS, LISZT INSTITUTE BRUSSELS



Raya Kalenova and Maria Bagdasarova took part in the Memorial Day of the Hungarian Victims of the Holocaust hosted and addressed by H.E. Mr. Tamás Iván Kovács, Ambassador of Hungary to Belgium and Luxembourg.

During the commemorative moment, Raya Kalenova lit one of the candles. The event concluded with the screening of the award-winning documentary 'Granny Project', directed by Bálint Révész.

24 APRIL 2023

BRUSSELS, POLISH INSTITUTE OF BRUSSELS

Ariella Woitchik and Dylan Bokler attended the "Women Resistance in Ghettos" conference commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

24 APRIL 2023

BRUSSELS

Maria Bagdasarova attended the commemoration ceremony on the Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day organized by the Committee of the Armenians in Belgium that was addressed by representatives of Belgian political institutions and civil society including the Coordinating Committee of Belgian Jewish Organizations.

25 APRIL 2023

LISBON, PORTUGAL

Raya Kalenova visited Lisbon, where she met with the local Jewish community and its president, David Joffe Botelho.

During her visit, Raya Kalenova had the opportunity to observe the community's enthusiasm and dedication for fostering Jewish life and promoting Jewish education and cultural heritage. She appreciated the community's commitment to preserving and celebrating its rich history and traditions.

In addition, Raya Kalenova held discussions with community leaders and members, covering a range of topics from the fight against antisemitism to the challenges faced by the community. The visit provided valuable insights and an opportunity to connect with the local community.



25 APRIL 2023

BRUSSELS, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



The European Jewish Congress and B'nai B'rith International co-organized a conference to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. The event, held under the honorary patronage of the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, took place at the European Parliament and was hosted by the Working Group against Antisemitism (WGAS) and its Chair, Vice-President Nicola Beer.



The conference, titled "80 Years Since the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising: Perspectives on Resistance Then and Now," began with a video message from Marian Turski, a Polish journalist, historian, and Holocaust survivor who serves as Chairman of the POLIN Museum Council.

In her opening remarks, WGAS Chair Nicola Beer highlighted the importance of applying the lessons learned from the Uprising to the numerous pressing human rights issues facing the world today, with the theme of human dignity as a unifying thread: 'We have to remember the extraordinary bravery of these people, who fought with all of their available means against the German oppression in an unconditional struggle for freedom and human dignity. It is important to remember them as fighters and heroes for freedom and human dignity – not only as victims – and to draw inspiration from the struggles against oppression and human rights violations of today and tomorrow.'



Alina Bricman, Director of European Union Affairs at B'nai B'rith International, emphasized the importance of remembering the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and the enduring spirit, dignity, and lessons of its fighters, which serve as universal and communal instructions to the Jewish community to stand up against hate and fight for justice: 'The stories of the Jewish women and men who resisted in the Warsaw Ghetto are a daunting and immeasurable treasure trove. And in this treasure trove, we have memories that must be preserved and most importantly, we have instructions, that must guide us.'

Ariella Woitchik, EJC Director of European Affairs, honoured those brave young women and men who took part in one of the most desperate revolts humanity has ever known and recalled that the Jewish people have a long history of resistance against their oppressors, defending their right to live in dignity and freedom: 'Resistance is not only military in nature. There have been numerous types of Jewish resistance through the ages. The will of the Jewish people to survive and protect its heritage has been unbreakable.'

Louise Haxthausen, UNESCO Representative to the European Union, spoke about UNESCO's commitment to Holocaust education and the immense significance of the "Oneg Shabbat" archives, also known as the Ringelblum Archive, as part of the world heritage under UNESCO's Memory of the World program.

Representatives of HaShomer Hatzair youth movement in Belgium paid tribute to the heroes of the Warsaw ghetto in a special commemorative moment. In the Warsaw ghetto, members of the HaShomer Hatzair movement were among the organizers of the 'Jewish Fighting Organization', and a member of Hashomer Hatzair, Mordechai Anielewicz, stood at its head.

The conference ended with a panel discussion featuring Dr Bob Moore, Professor Emeritus of 20th Century European History at the University of Sheffield, Dr Joël Kotek, Professor of Political Science at the Free University of Brussels, and Grischa Stanjek, a researcher and founder of Democ. The panelists discussed the concept of resistance in the contemporary world, the role of documentation in addressing antisemitism, extremism and hate, and the lessons that can be drawn from the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising to the present day. The discussion was moderated by BBC journalist Amie Liebowitz.

The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, the month-long act of Jewish resistance that took place between April 19, 1943 and May 16, 1943, was the largest and, symbolically, most important Jewish uprising during World War II. It was also the first urban uprising in German-occupied Europe. The Jewish resistance in Warsaw inspired uprisings in other ghettos such as in Bialystok and Minsk.

26 APRIL 2023

ONLINE

Ariella Woitchik and Caroline Totaro held a call with UNESCO to discuss the coordination for the upcoming joint event 'Educating against antisemitism, intolerance and discrimination' to be hosted by the European Parliament Working Group against Antisemitism (WGAS).

27 APRIL 2023

ONLINE

Xavier Ruiz participated in the online meeting between Meta and major Jewish organisations. This time, the meeting covered Meta policies towards terrorist organizations.

27 APRIL 2023

BRUSSELS, PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF SWEDEN TO THE EU

Ariella Woitchik took part in a reception held under the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the EU to mark the commitment to combatting racism and antisemitism. The event was attended by EU diplomats involved in the fight against antisemitism and racism. Representatives of the upcoming Spanish Presidency of the Council of the EU also committed to continue to address these issues.

2-4 MAY 2023

BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

The European Jewish Congress took part in the fourth meeting of the European Commission working group on the implementation of the EU strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life, held in Bucharest, Romania.



This meeting was organised by the Romanian Government jointly with the European Commission.

Among issues discussed at the Working Group were the state of play of the development of national strategies and national plans on combating antisemitism, the need to combat online antisemitism and the tools needed to foster Jewish life in Europe.

Policy Officer Dylan Bokler represented the EJC at the meeting which brought together representatives of national Jewish communities, international and civil society organisations, national ministries and high-level officers of the European Institutions.

Among the speakers were Vice-President of the European Commission Margaritis Schinas, European Commission Coordinator on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life Katherina von Schnurbein and Prime Minister of Romania Nicolae Ciucă.

2 MAY 2023

BRUSSELS, EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Maria Bagdasarova attended the opening ceremony of the exhibition "Saving Ukrainians in War Times" hosted by Olivér Várhelyi, European Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement.

2 MAY 2023

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Xavier Ruiz attended the opening of the exhibition "Children of Imagination" by Bulgarian-Jewish artist Greddy Assa. The event was co-hosted by the Embassy of Bulgaria in Belgium and MEP Tsvetelina Penkova (S&D, Bulgaria).

2 MAY 2023
ANTWERP

Caroline Totaro represented the European Jewish Congress in a meeting and discussion with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel Eli Cohen dedicated to EU-Israel relations and perspectives on the issues faced by the Jewish Diaspora in Belgium and the European Union. The event was hosted by the Jewish community of Antwerp.



5 MAY 2023
STOCKHOLM



EJC Executive Vice President Raya Kalenova met with Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson, whose country held the Presidency of the Council of the European Union at that time.

The meeting, which also included President of the Official Council of Swedish Jewish Communities Lena Posner and Swedish Minister of Culture Parisa Liljestrand, focused on issues affecting the Jewish community in Sweden and throughout Europe. It was also an opportunity to discuss how Sweden can continue to lead the fight against antisemitism.

5 MAY 2023
BRUSSELS, BRITISH RESIDENCE

Raya Kalenova and Maria Bagdasarova attended the reception to celebrate the coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla hosted by the United Kingdom's Ambassador to Belgium Martin Shearman.

23 MAY 2023
BRUSSELS, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



The European Jewish Congress, together with B'nai B'rith International, held a presentation at the European Parliament entitled 'Educating against antisemitism, intolerance and discrimination' hosted by the European Parliament Working Group against Antisemitism (WGAS) and its Board Member Ilana Cicurel MEP, in partnership with UNESCO and the European Commission.

The event aimed to raise awareness about the power of education to counter antisemitism and all forms of intolerance and discrimination, and to provide information to members of the European Parliament and other European and international stakeholders about UNESCO activities to address and prevent antisemitism through education.

In her opening remarks, WGAS Board Member Ilana Cicurel acknowledged the rise of antisemitism and hate in Europe, the importance of education in combating those problems, the challenges faced by teachers, educators and academics and called for a collective action against antisemitism: 'The fight against antisemitism is the responsibility of everyone, and allowing it to thrive would jeopardize European civilization'. Ilana Cicurel commended the project being carried out by UNESCO in partnership with the OSCE/ODIHR, funded by the European Commission, on the development and implementation of the educational dimension of the national strategies to combat antisemitism and foster Jewish life in 12 EU Member States. The project includes organizing trainings for education stakeholders, providing school materials and enhancing the ability of students to address antisemitism and fake news with the focus placed on curricula and guidelines based on the IHRA definition of antisemitism.

Raya Kalenova, EJC Executive Vice-President, emphasized the need to incorporate Jewish and Holocaust education in schools throughout Europe, making it mandatory to learn about Jewish heritage and traditions at all levels of education, and training teachers to counteract antisemitic narratives in the classrooms: 'Although a lot of progress

has already been made in the fight against antisemitism, we still have a lot of challenges to overcome together as Holocaust denial, antisemitic conspiracy theories and more generally ignorance are thriving in our classrooms. We expect the 12 member states that are part of the UNESCO initiative to fulfil their obligations and ensure that schools are free of stereotypes, misinformation, and discrimination that may fuel antisemitic attitudes, prejudices and hatred'.

Katharina von Schnurbein, European Commission Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life, reiterated the importance of education in addressing societal challenges with schools being channels of values transmission, highlighting the need for member states to prioritize education and collaborate with UNESCO to revise curricula to include Holocaust education and to empower teachers to address antisemitism in classrooms.

In his presentation of the EU-funded project on addressing antisemitism through education in Europe, Karel Fracapane, Programme Specialist, Section for Global Citizenship and Peace Education, Education Sector, UNESCO, highlighted the need to educate about the complexities of antisemitism, address the representation or lack of representation of the Jewish people in school curricula, establish partnerships with schools and Jewish education representatives, and to develop awareness raising procedures. He reported that UNESCO published recommendations, advocated for the inclusion of antisemitism in the UN's action plan, promoted inclusive educational programmes focusing on human rights and digital citizenship, and facilitated international exchanges to promote best practices, including training and research.

In her special address, Isabelle Rome, French Minister for Gender Equality, Diversity and Equal Opportunities, highlighted the commitment of the French government to the fight against antisemitism, including adopting the IHRA definition, banning antisemitic associations, and combating hate speech online and offline. The minister presented France's new action plan on combatting discrimination, racism and antisemitism that focuses on education, training, and awareness-raising to address the root causes of antisemitism. The plan includes visits to Holocaust memorial sites for all school children, digital dimension initiatives, mandatory training for teachers and public service workers, and strong enforcement measures to combat antisemitic acts and discourse.

The conference continued with a panel discussion moderated by EJC Director of European Affairs Ariella Woitchik on the importance of education to address antisemitism, intolerance and discrimination featuring Joël Kotek, Historian and professor at the Free University of Brussels (ULB), Heather Mann, Associate Project Officer, Section for Global Citizenship and Peace Education, Education Sector, UNESCO, Alex Maws, Head of Education and Heritage, The Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR), and Viviane Teitelbaum, Author, Member

of the Brussels Parliament. The panellists discussed the nature of antisemitism as a conspiracy theory, the need for comprehensive education on antisemitism and Holocaust, the challenges of addressing unconscious and conscious antisemitism in classrooms, the harassment and bullying faced by Jewish students in public schools, the impact of the Middle East conflict on the dialogue between Jewish and non-Jewish youngsters, and the importance of training teachers to counter antisemitism.

Alina Bricman, Director of European Union Affairs at B'nai B'rith International, emphasized that democratic resilience was at stake, highlighting the importance of critical thinking, building inclusive spaces, promoting diversity, prioritising ethics over facts, and mainstreaming relevant information about antisemitism, Holocaust and Jewish life in education.

In her closing remarks that concluded the event, WGAS Board Member Ilana Cicurel MEP emphasized that combating antisemitism requires a multidimensional approach involving several ministries, addressing its connection to conspiracy theories and the societal decline, while also highlighting the importance of aligning with the living Judaism, and sharing best practices within the European education area to become a stronger educational force.

24 MAY 2023

EJC OFFICE

The EJC team met with Heather Mann, Associate Project Officer, and Karel Fracapane, Programme Specialist, Section of Global Citizenship and Peace Education, Division for Peace and Sustainable Development Education Sector at UNESCO to debrief after the conference 'Educating against antisemitism, intolerance and discrimination' and to discuss future joint initiatives.

31 MAY 2023

BRUSSELS

Raya Kalenova and Ariella Woitchik attended the reception on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the State of Israel, organised by the Mission of Israel to the EU and NATO.

31 MAY 2023

BRUSSELS – EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Maria Bagdasarova attended the screening of “Slava Ukraini” documentary by Bernard-Henri Lévy hosted by Nathalie Loiseau MEP (Renew, France).

6-8 JUNE 2023

JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

Raya Kalenova joined the World Jewish Congress delegation to Jerusalem to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the State of Israel.

11-14 JUNE 2023

TEL-AVIV, ISRAEL



An EJC delegation consisting of President Dr Ariel Muzicant, Executive Vice-President and CEO Raya Kalenova, and Presidents of European Jewish Communities held a series of bilateral meetings in Israel with high-level politicians and Israeli organisations.

The EJC delegation held meetings with Austrian Federal Minister of European Affairs and Constitution Karoline Edtstadler and Israeli Minister of Diaspora Amichai Chikli.

Subsequently, the delegation met with officials from the Jewish Agency for Israel and Taglit-Birthright.

Among the topics discussed in the meetings were the relations between Israel and the Diaspora, challenges in Europe, the necessary continued response to rising antisemitism, and the security threats faced by European Jewish communities. Best practices from Austria were also raised.

Best practices from Austria were also raised.

EJC leaders participated in the AJC Global Forum 2023 in Tel Aviv and held official meetings with its CEO Ted Deutsch, AJC Europe Director

Simone Rodan-Benzaquen, Director of International Jewish Affairs, Rabbi Andrew Baker and AJC Transatlantic Institute Director Daniel Schwammenthal.

During these meetings, it was agreed that concrete strategies for cooperation will be developed to foster European Jewish life and tackle the rise of antisemitism as well as Holocaust distortion and denial.

“There are so many enemies of the Jewish people, it is high time we put our heads together,” EJC President Ariel Muzicant said.

The two leading Jewish organisations will also work to address the challenges posed by the proliferation of disinformation campaigns and the threats posed by extremists to European Jewish communities.

“We want to look at how we can best convey to European governments why these are very serious threats, not just for Jews but for Europe as a whole,” AJC Europe Director Simone Rodan-Benzaquen said.

16 JUNE 2023

BRUSSELS – GREAT SYNAGOGUE OF EUROPE

Caroline Totaro participated in a meeting with Yoav Gallant, Defence Minister of Israel, organised by the Mission of Israel to the EU and NATO and the Embassy of Israel to Belgium and Luxembourg.

19 JUNE 2023

BRUSSELS TOWN HALL

The European Jewish Congress together with SACC by EJC organised an international conference named “Security Challenges in Europe: A comprehensive approach” in cooperation with Brussels Capital IXL Police, CCOJB, and the SASCE Project.

Security experts, law enforcement officials, European lawmakers, religious and community leaders came together to discuss common challenges and share their knowledge in the field of security, counterterrorism and victim support.

Raya Kalenova, EJC Executive Vice-President, expressed that “SACC’s close cooperation with local authorities and law enforcement officials has made a genuine difference for Jews throughout Europe and this conference is proof of what we can achieve when we work together for the common good.”

Ophir Revach, CEO of SACC, emphasized that we are living “in difficult times where peace and security of our European democracies are being challenged. Terrorism aims to impact the whole civil society and change the cohesion between the citizens by fuelling polarization and hatred.”





Philip Close, Mayor of Brussels, thanked the European Jewish Congress for the organisation of the conference and emphasized that “everyone should feel safe and respected in Brussels. There is no place in this city for antisemitism, racism, and polarization. And in this regard, we will never forget the victims of terrorism.”

Michael Gooevaerts, Superintendent- Chief Commissioner of Brussels Capital IXL Police, said that the “Brussels Police Force remains available and vigilant to safeguard our communities. I encourage my Police Force to think globally and act locally to make our law enforcement agencies more resilient and flexible to face the contemporary challenges.”

Participants had the opportunity to hear the long-standing experience of a diverse array of speakers, including Shalom Ben Hanan, a Past Senior Officer at the Israel Security Agency, who shared his experience and knowledge about radical Islam, lone wolf terrorism, as well as cyberspace and terrorism.

At the same time, the SASCE (Safer and Stronger Communities in Europe) Project, funded by the European Commission, was presented to the general public. This initiative united Buddhist, Christian, Jewish, and Muslim communities in a collaborative effort to enhance security measures in places of worship across Europe by exchanging best practices and expertise, and enabling a comprehensive understanding of both external and internal risks facing faith institutions.

21 JUNE 2023

ONLINE

Raya Kalenova and Ariella Woitchik attended an Annual Board Meeting of the Claims Conference.

26-28 JUNE 2023

BRUSSELS



The European Jewish Congress co-hosted with the American Jewish Committee (AJC) preparatory talks involving lawmakers, Jewish leaders, tech experts, and representatives from social media companies ahead of the second Summit of the Inter-Parliamentary Task Force to Combat Online Antisemitism in Brussels.

The Task Force is spearheaded by a Steering Committee, which includes MEP David Lega, Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz (U.S.), Anthony Housefather MP (Canada), and former MK Michal Cotler-Wunsh (Israel). Legislators from the United States, United Kingdom, Belgium, and Israel were among the 16 parliamentarians who attended the summit.

Building on the successful first conference that took place in Washington D.C. in September 2022, this summit brought together parliamentarians from across the world, representatives of major online platforms as well as tech experts from civil society for a series of high-level meetings and discussions on the matter.

The members of the Task Force held a hearing with representatives of social media companies, including Twitter, Meta, and YouTube, in the European Parliament. During the hearing, parliamentarians emphasized their demands for greater accountability and transparency from these companies. They stressed the urgent need for swift and effective removal of antisemitic content found online, while also advocating for the implementation of the European Digital Services Act (DSA) and the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) guidelines by the social media platforms.

Parliamentarians also held discussions on shared concerns with Margaritis Schinas, Vice-President of the European Commission, and



Katharina Von Schnurbein, European Commission Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life. At the same time, participants met with representatives of leading Jewish organisations, including the European Jewish Congress.

On June 26, parliamentarians, Ambassadors, and high-level decision-makers attended an opening dinner of the summit hosted by the European Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Committee.

27-28 JUNE 2023

BRUSSELS

Maria Bagdasarova and Caroline Totaro participated in the NOA (Networks overcoming antisemitism) European Conference organised by the World Jewish Congress, CEJI – A Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe, European Union of Jewish Students, B'nai B'rith Europe, European Association for the Preservation and Promotion of Jewish Culture and Heritage and European Union for Progressive Judaism. The conference brought together over 100 representatives from civil society organisations and public authorities to reflect on the results, lessons, measures and experiences in addressing, preventing and fighting antisemitism, informed by the tools developed in the NOA Project.

28 JUNE 2023

BRUSSELS – EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Caroline Totaro and Xavier Ruiz attended a conference “Holocaust education: remembering the past, teaching the future” hosted by MEP Elena Yoncheva (S&D, Buglaria). The conference explored various aspects of Holocaust education across Europe, including current practices, methodologies, differences in approaches, and underscored the significance of Holocaust remembrance, awareness, and understanding.

30 JUNE 2023

ONLINE

Ariella Woitchik participated in the inaugural meeting of the Monitoring Group for the project ‘Addressing Antisemitism through Education in Europe’, which is being implemented by UNESCO in partnership with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, and it is supported by funding from the European Commission under the Erasmus+ program.

3 JULY 2023

ONLINE

Dylan Bokler and Caroline Totaro attended a FRA webinar discussing the key highlights and findings from FRA’s Fundamental Rights Report 2023.

3 JULY 2023

ONLINE

Ariella Woitchik and Caroline Totaro participated in the Concluding Conference of the “Preserving Jewish Cemeteries” EU co-funded grant. This conference concluded an 18-month project undertaken jointly by the ESJF European Jewish Cemeteries Initiative, Centropa and the Foundation for Jewish Heritage which has focused on preserving Jewish cemeteries in seven European countries.

7 JULY 2023

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Maria Bagdasarova and Caroline Totaro took part in the round table of major Jewish organisations, hosted by the office of the European Commission Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life Katharina von Schnurbein.

11 JULY 2023

ONLINE

Raya Kalenova and Ariella Woitchik participated in the combined meeting of the Executive Committee and Council of the World Jewish Restitution Organization.

27 JULY 2023

ATHENS

EJC President Ariel Muzicant visited the Jewish Museum of Athens, joined by David Saltiel, President of the Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece, and the organisation’s board members.



24 AUGUST 2023

GRIMBERGEN

Ariella Woitchik attended the Independence Day of Ukraine hosted by the Embassy of Ukraine to the Kingdom of Belgium and the Mission of Ukraine to the European Union.

3 SEPTEMBER 2023

BRUSSELS – GREAT SYNAGOGUE OF EUROPE

Ariella Woitchik attended the kick-off event of European Days of Jewish Culture, organised by the European Association for the Preservation and Promotion of Jewish Culture and Heritage.

4 SEPTEMBER 2023

BRUSSELS, ISRAELI MISSION TO THE EU AND NATO

Ariella Woitchik participated in a meeting with Amichai Chikli, Minister of Diaspora Affairs of the State of Israel, along with Brussels-based Jewish organizations. They discussed significant issues and challenges faced by Europe’s Jewish communities, as well as the potential for Israel to provide support for Jewish education in Europe.

7 SEPTEMBER 2023

ONLINE

The EJC hosted an introductory meeting with an IT company GoBubble to present their AI content moderation tool to interested EJC affiliates and to discuss opportunities for partnership and collaboration in the field of fighting online antisemitism.

12 SEPTEMBER 2023

MARRAKESH

Hours before a devastating earthquake struck Morocco, EJC Executive VP Raya Kalenova met with the President of the country’s Jewish community Serge Berdugo and other members of the community in the city of Marrakesh. Together they visited an ancient synagogue in the historical Jewish quarter, a neighbourhood that suffered greatly.

Following the tragic earthquake, Raya Kalenova met with the Jewish community’s leadership to offer EJC’s support and to express European Jewish communities’ solidarity with the Jewish community and people of Morocco.



14 SEPTEMBER 2023

BRUSSELS, EMBASSY OF HUNGARY



Raya Kalenova and Ariella Woitchik joined the celebration of the 3rd anniversary of the Abraham Accords with the Ambassadors of the United States, Israel, UAE, Bahrain and Morocco at the Hungarian Embassy. The event was hosted by H.E. Mr Tamás Iván Kovács, Ambassador of Hungary to Belgium and Luxembourg, and Michael Freilich, Member of the Belgian Federal Parliament.

20 SEPTEMBER 2023
BRUSSELS, EJC OFFICE



The European Jewish Congress hosted a Rosh Hashanah reception in its new Brussels office, celebrating the Jewish New Year.

Ambassadors, Members of the European Parliament and national parliaments, European Commission lawmakers, diplomatic officials, representatives of international organisations and Belgian Jewish community leaders gathered to mark this special occasion and strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation.

Raya Kalenova, EJC Executive Vice-President and CEO, highlighted that "Rosh Hashanah is a time for Jewish communities around the world to reflect on the past and to think about new projects and aspirations for the new year."

"Rosh Hashanah encourages us to look with hope and determination into the future," said Raya Kalenova.

H.E. Mark Gitenstein, the United States Ambassador to the European Union, addressed the audience and said: "On both sides of the Atlantic, we must work with our respective systems to raise awareness, promote transparency, and do more to counter antisemitism."

"In the EU, policymakers have also developed an antisemitism strategy and other new tools, like new transparency and auditing requirements contained in the DSA, which aim to shine a light and prevent harmful online activities, including antisemitism," remarked Ambassador Gitenstein.

At the same time, guests had the opportunity to listen to H.E. Haim Regev, Head of the Mission of Israel to the EU and NATO. He emphasized the robust and vibrant Israeli democracy while highlighting the strengthening ties between the State of Israel and the European Union over the past two years. He underscored the significance of the Abraham Accords and the need to further expand them in the future. Ambassador Regev also praised the work of the EJC and the ever-close cooperation.

Afterwards, Yves Oschinsky, President of the Coordinating Committee of Belgian Jewish Organizations (CCOJB) and EJC Executive Member, took the floor and spoke about the long-standing partnership and friendship between CCOJB and the European Jewish Congress. He also highlighted the rich cultural and religious life of the Belgian Jewish community.

To finalize, former President of CCOJB Yohan Benizri told guests about the importance of Rosh Hashanah for Jews around the world and explained the customs, traditions, and deep symbolism of this significant holiday in the Jewish calendar.

Following his remarks, Yohan Benizri led a prayer, and afterward, apples and honey were distributed to symbolize the desire for a sweet new year.

Among the guests were diplomatic representatives from Bahrein, Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Israel, the United States of America, and Ukraine.

A delegation of 'Shalom', the EJC affiliate in Bulgaria, led by its President Dr. Alexander Oscar took part in this celebration as part of their two-day working visit to Brussels.



21 SEPTEMBER 2023
BRUSSELS, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Raya Kalenova and Ariella Woitchik together with a delegation of the EJC affiliate in Bulgaria 'Shalom' led by its President Dr. Alexander Oscar held meetings with Bulgarian MEPs Andrey Kovatchev (EPP) and Ilhan Kyuchyuk (Renew Europe) to discuss the worrying rise of antisemitism and extremism in Bulgaria.



28 SEPTEMBER 2023
EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Ariella Woitchik took part in the round table of major Jewish organisations hosted by the office of the European Commission Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life Katharina von Schnurbein.

28 SEPTEMBER 2023
EJC OFFICE

The EJC team met with Ehab Hino, Head of European Parliament department at Israel's Mission to the EU and NATO, to discuss possible avenues for collaboration ahead of 2024 EU elections.

9 OCTOBER 2023
BRUSSELS – EMBASSY OF ISRAEL



The EJC team participated in a rally organized by the Coordinating Committee of Belgian Jewish Organizations (CCOJB) and the Forum of Jewish Organizations in front of the Israeli embassy in Brussels to express solidarity with Israel following the barbaric attacks by Hamas. Belgian politicians and members of the national parliament attended the event.

11 OCTOBER 2023
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT – AGORA SIMONE VEIL

The EJC team participated in a solemn ceremony to show solidarity with the victims of the Hamas terrorist attacks in Israel. The ceremony was led by President of the European Parliament Roberta Metsola, and attended by President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Council Charles Michel, and H.E. Ambassador Haim Regev, Head of Mission of Israel to EU and NATO.

Roberta Metsola stated, 'We demand the immediate release of the hostages. Europe stands firmly in solidarity with Israel.'



11 OCTOBER 2023
BRUSSELS – PLACE DU LUXEMBOURG

Together with major Brussels-based Jewish organizations and the Belgian Jewish community, the EJC co-organized an emergency rally, demanding the immediate release of the Israeli hostages. The rally was attended by members of the European and Belgian parliaments.

12 OCTOBER 2023
EJC OFFICE

In preparation for the upcoming Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Raya Kalenova, Ariella Woitchik, and Caroline Totaro held discussions with Benoît Contzen, Legal Adviser of the Permanent Representation of Belgium to the European Union, alongside representatives from the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, and the Federal Office for Equal Opportunities. The aim of these discussions was to address current issues concerning the fight against antisemitism across the European Union and the implementation of the EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life by Belgium. Yves Oschinsky, President of the Coordination Committee of Jewish Organizations in Belgium (CCOJB) and a Member of the EJC Executive, also took part in the meeting.

18-20 OCTOBER 2023
LISBON, PORTUGAL



The European Jewish Congress held its Executive Meeting in cooperation with the EJC's affiliate in Portugal, the Jewish Community of Lisbon (Comunidade Israelita de Lisboa), headed by David Joffe Botelho.

Members of the Executive expressed their full solidarity and unconditional support for the State of Israel and the urgent need to bring back the hostages taken by Hamas to the Gaza Strip.

They also discussed the current challenges faced by Europe's Jewish communities and how to address them, especially in the context of the war between Israel and Hamas.

The meeting also included discussions on security, the rise of the far right and far left across Europe, and the dramatic surge of antisemitism both online and offline in the aftermath of the brutal attack by Hamas.

Considering the recent increase in antisemitic attacks across Europe and the urgent necessity for Jewish communities to protect their institutions and individuals, the members of the EJC Executive called on the European Union and national governments to immediately allocate the necessary funding for community security, emphasizing that the financial responsibility for security should not rest solely on Jewish communities during these difficult times.

Participants also had the opportunity to exchange views with H.E. Dor Shapira, Ambassador of the State of Israel to Portugal, and a leading expert in Israeli defense and security and a former military intelligence officer.

The EJC Executive meeting took place after the Young Presidents Organisation (YPO) Jewish annual summit in Cascais, where members of the executive, including EJC President Dr Ariel Muzicant, and Executive Vice-President and CEO Raya Kalenova, had the opportunity to address the audience and present the work of the European Jewish Congress, discuss the European response to Hamas' brutal attacks, and the concerning surge of antisemitic incidents.

EJC executive members attended a solemn ceremony at Shaaré Tikvah Synagogue organized by the Jewish Community of Lisbon to honour the victims of Hamas and express solidarity with Israel. The event was graced by the presence of the Ambassadors of Israel and the United States to Portugal.



25 OCTOBER 2023
EJC OFFICE

Ariella Woitchik met with Andreas Accardo, Head of Institutional Cooperation and Networks Unit at the Fundamental rights agency (FRA), to discuss the impact of the Israel-Hamas war on Jewish communities, and FRA's response to this, ahead of the release of FRA's annual update on antisemitism.

29-31 OCTOBER 2023
ISRAEL



EJC President Dr Ariel Muzicant, together with European Jewish leaders and Austrian lawmakers, arrived in Israel on 29 October to express their full solidarity and unconditional support for the Jewish state in the wake of Hamas' brutal attacks.

On 30 October, the EJC delegation met with IDF Spokesperson Colonel Olivier Rafowicz, who briefed them on the ongoing situation in the war with Hamas and its short-term and long-term expected developments.

Subsequently, they had a meeting with the Mayor of Sderot, Alon Davidi, and former Minister of Defense and Deputy Prime Minister, Amir Peretz, in the Town Hall of Sderot to understand how the war had affected the city and its inhabitants. They visited Sderot and witnessed first-hand the destruction caused by Hamas.

In Tel Aviv, the delegation had painful and emotional meetings with the families and friends of those murdered by Hamas or held hostage in the Gaza Strip. They were joined in these meetings by Israeli diplomat Daniel Shek and the Chairperson of the Center Organisations of Holocaust Survivors and politician Colette Avital.

On their second and last day, the members of the EJC delegation held a meeting with Israeli President Isaac Herzog at his Jerusalem residence, where they expressed their full solidarity and support for the State of Israel in its fight against terror and discussed the significant rise of antisemitism in Europe and around the world since Hamas' massacre on October 7th.

President Herzog expressed his gratitude for the unconditional support of European Jewish communities for the State of Israel and called on national governments to defend their Jewish citizens amid the current surge of violent antisemitism.

The EJC delegation also visited the editorial offices of the Jerusalem Post and Israel National News and conducted interviews with Israeli and international media about their visit.

They visited Reichman University in Herzliya, where they discussed the ongoing EJC initiative, the «Information and Communication Center for Israel» (ICCI), and its work to counteract the dissemination of false narratives in the media against Israel in Europe and beyond.

The members of the EJC delegation also held a meeting with a leading expert in Israeli defense and security, Raphaël Jerusalmy, who is a former military intelligence officer. During the meeting, they discussed the geopolitical aspects of the conflict with Hamas.



29 OCTOBER 2023
BRUSSELS

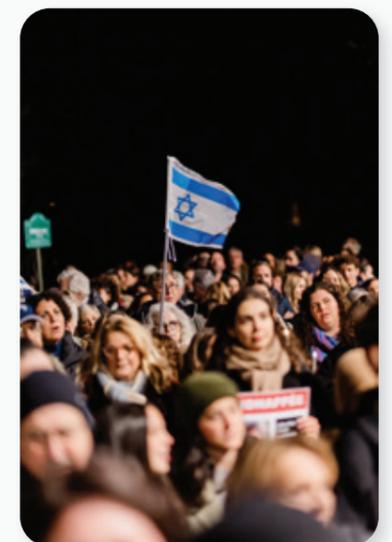
The European Jewish Congress organised a public release of sky lanterns in Brussels to honour the more than 230 innocent hostages held in the Gaza Strip by the terrorist organisation Hamas, demanding their immediate and unconditional release.

In an act of unity in the face of terror, hundreds of members of the Jewish community of Belgium gathered at Wolvendael Park in the Brussels commune of Uccle to show their solidarity and full support for the State of Israel and the families and friends of the hostages.

EJC Vice-President and CEO Raya Kalenova said, 'Tonight, here in Brussels, we have the feeling that it is particularly dark. This sense of living in darkness descended upon us on October 7 and has not left us since... To dispel the darkness, we need light. And I thank you for bringing the light to those who need it most.'

'I want to assure you that all the Jewish communities in Europe have been united for three long weeks, trying in every way to support the State of Israel and the victims' families.'

'Free the captives now. Shout this message on all stages, proclaim it to all political leaders and statesmen until each of these hostages





regains the light of their home and the warmth and love of their family' expressed EJC Vice-President Raya Kalenova.

After Ms Kalenova's speech, the Mayor of Uccle Boris Dilliès demanded the immediate release of all the hostages held in Gaza and expressed his support for the Jewish community, assuring them that they would do everything possible to protect them and guarantee their security.



'The world has witnessed the murder of Jews, simply because they were Jews once again. For life to prevail, it's high time for peacemakers to rise up, and you are the peacemakers here' emphasized Mr Dilliès.

Participants also heard from the President of the European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS) Emma Hallali who spoke about the increasing antisemitism on campus and the state of fear among young Jews during these challenging times.



The sky lanterns in honour of the hostages were released while those present sang the Israeli National Anthem, conveying a message of hope and solidarity.

30 OCTOBER 2023 BRUSSELS, AJC OFFICE

Ariella Woitchik and Xavi Ruiz participated in a meeting between X (formerly Twitter) and Meta representatives and major Jewish organisations organised by the Transatlantic institute of the American Jewish Committee. The meeting covered the experience of Jews on social media, the spike in online antisemitism, disinformation, glorification of terrorism, etc. following October 7.

7 NOVEMBER 2023 EJC OFFICE

The European Jewish Congress hosted families of the Israeli hostages taken by Hamas into the Gaza Strip.

During a meeting with Jewish organisations and representatives of the Israeli government, the families of the hostages shared their heartbreaking testimonies about the unbearable situation they have been experiencing for more than one month.



In a warm and calm atmosphere, they explained what they expected from their visit to Brussels and told those present about their needs and what could be done to help them get back their families from Hamas.

Raya Kalenova assured the hostage families of the unwavering support of European Jewish communities for the release of their loved ones and that the European Jewish Congress is doing everything in its power at the European level to bring their families back.

On the one-month anniversary of the October 7 event, this gathering aimed to shed light on the situation of the more than 240 hostages held by Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

7 NOVEMBER 2023
BRUSSELS, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



The European Jewish Congress took part in a Board Meeting of the European Parliament Working Group against Antisemitism (WGAS) to discuss the ongoing increase in antisemitic incidents in Europe since October 7, following the start of the war between Israel and Hamas.

The meeting was hosted by WGAS Chair Nicola Beer MEP (Renew Europe) who was joined by Vice-Chair Sergey Lagodinsky MEP (Greens) and Board

members Ilana Cicurel MEP (Renew Europe) and Dietmar Köster MEP (S&D). Catharina Rinzema MEP (Renew Europe) was also in attendance.

EJC Executive Vice-President Raya Kalenova provided an update on the upsurge in antisemitism faced by European Jewish communities since the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7, emphasizing the need to enhance the security of Jewish institutions and strengthen the fight against antisemitism both online and offline.

Ms Kalenova highlighted that the dramatic increase in antisemitic incidents in Europe was unprecedented, as there were over 1,000 antisemitic incidents in countries such as France or the United Kingdom, including physical attacks, solely in the last month.

President of the European Union of Jewish Students Emma Hallali gave an overview of students' experiences of antisemitism on campus, raising awareness of the challenging situations Jewish students are facing in universities. She said that Jewish and Israeli students are being targeted by fellow students, professors and academic authorities in campus, being told that the Hamas massacre was justified.

Ilana Cicurel MEP reported on her recent mission to Israel, where she witnessed the destruction caused by Hamas against innocent civilians and met with high-level politicians, members of civil society, and families of the victims, hostages, and internally displaced.

The WGAS issued a joint statement after the meeting, condemning the surge in antisemitism in Europe following the Hamas attack on Israel and calling for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages held in the Gaza Strip.

WGAS is an informal cross-party alliance of Members of the European Parliament dedicated to raising awareness and contributing to strengthening the fight against antisemitism in the European Union. The EJC acts as Secretariat and Member of the Advisory Board of WGAS.

8 NOVEMBER 2023
BRUSSELS, AJC OFFICE

Ariella Woitchik and Xavi Ruiz participated in a meeting between X (formerly Twitter) representatives and major Jewish organisations organised by the Transatlantic institute of the American Jewish Committee. The ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas and its impact on European Jewish citizens on this social media platform were discussed.

8 NOVEMBER 2023
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Raya Kalenova, Maria Bagdasarova and Dylan Bokler attended a conference hosted by Antonio López-Istúriz White MEP (EPP/Spain) where families of the Israeli hostages taken by Hamas into the Gaza Strip delivered their heartbreaking testimonies. Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen delivered the opening remarks.

9 NOVEMBER 2023
EJC OFFICER

The EJC team met with Member of the National Assembly of Bulgaria Daniel Lorer to discuss about EJC's ongoing work, projects, activities and current challenges of Europe's Jewish communities.

21-23 NOVEMBER 2023
ISRAEL



The European Jewish Congress organised a press trip to Israel with journalists from across Europe in response to the brutal attacks on October 7 and the ongoing war between the State of Israel and the terrorist organisation Hamas.

The objective of the mission was to offer journalists and press officers an in-depth and multidimensional perspective on the current situation in the country, enabling them to visit the places where the Hamas massacre took place, meet relatives of the victims and hostages taken to the Gaza Strip, and engage in discussions with high-level politicians and analysts.

Participants of the mission visited Kibbutz Kfar Aza, where more than 50 residents were killed by Hamas, and an additional 20 are missing. They also visited Tkuma, the village near the place where the Supernova Festival took place, where more than 300 attendees were brutally murdered. There, they engaged in discussions with members of the IDF. Subsequently, they travelled to the city of Ness Ziona to see the outdoor exhibit "The Abducted Hearts" which consists of 242 cast iron statues, to represent the hostages taken by Hamas, each with a heart-shaped hole in its center.

The mission participated in the Forum of Hostages, where they met families of those taken by Hamas to the Gaza Strip and received a briefing from former diplomats. Afterward, they visited the Tel Aviv Museum, where they had a meeting with its Director, Tania Cohen-Uzielli, and Chief Curator Mira Lapidot, to discuss the art world's non-reaction to the Hamas massacre.

On their last day, the mission traveled to the Druze village of Daliyat al-Karmel in Mount Carmel, where they met Druze Israeli MK Akram Hasson and political consultant Samer Berany. They discussed the culture and traditions of the Druze and their participation in the IDF since Israel's independence. Afterwards, they visited the Sammy Ofer Fortified Underground Emergency Hospital and were guided by the Director General of Rambam Health Care Campus, Prof. Miki Halberthal.

During the mission, they held meetings with former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, the Ambassador of Italy to Israel, Sergio Barbanti, the Ambassador of Austria to Israel, Nikolaus Lutterotti, former Israeli Ambassador Aviv Shir-On, and journalists Dan Perry and Ari Shavit. They also had briefings with ELNET and I24 News, where they had the possibility to visit its studio, following a conversation with its CEO Frank Melloul.

The trip counted with the presence of Christian Ultsch, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the Austrian newspaper "Die Presse," Stefano Citati, Chief Editor of the Italian newspaper "Il Fatto," Johanna Adorján from the German newspaper "Sueddeutsche Zeitung," Julia Hubernagl, the editor of the cultural department of the German media TAZ (Die Tageszeitung), Kasper Goossens, freelance reporter for the Belgian

newspaper Het Nieuwsblad, journalist specialised in European and international issues Vincent Georis from the Belgian newspaper L'Echo, freelance journalist for the Telegraph, Financial Times Group, and Domani Giovanni Legorano, and Erika Jakubovits, Executive Director of the Presidency at the Jewish Community of Vienna (IKG).

5 DECEMBER 2023 BRUSSELS

Maria Bagdasarova and Dylan Bokler took part in a consultation with civil society hosted by Vice-President of the European Commission Vera Jourova ahead of European Commission's joint communication to the European Parliament and the Council "No place for hate: a Europe united against hatred". Maria Bagdasarova and Dylan Bokler presented the escalating security concerns of European Jewish communities.



6 DECEMBER 2023 BRUSSELS, REPRESENTATION OF THE FREE STATE OF BAVARIA TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

Xavier Ruiz attended the opening of a photo exhibition "Israel in October 2023. Impressions of the Country in the Aftermath of October 7th" by photo journalist Ziv Koren. The event was co-hosted by the Mission of Israel to the European Union and NATO in cooperation with the American Jewish Committee Transatlantic Institute.

8 DECEMBER 2023 ONLINE

Raya Kalenova addressed the 6th Lithuanian National Forum on Human Rights and spoke about the important work that the EJC does to protect Jewish communities across Europe, including Lithuania, and fight against antisemitism during these challenging times.

Ms Kalenova took part on the panel "Anatomy of contemporary antisemitism and the response to it" alongside Chair of the Lithuanian Jewish (Litvak) Community Faina Kukliansky, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Seimas Amb. Žygimantas Pavilionis, Member of the Human Rights Committee of the Seimas Arūnas Valinskas and Senior Fellow at the Jewish People Policy Institute (JPPI) Rabbi Dr. Dov Maimon.

"Since October 7th, the largest pogrom or mass killing of Jews in a single day since the Holocaust, we have witnessed a distressing rise of antisemitism in Europe that leaves Jews in a state of extreme fear. Sadly, Antisemitism has become normalised," said EJC Vice-President Raya Kalenova.

"More than a decade ago we created SACC, Security and Crisis Management Centre, called SACC in order ensure the security of our communities across Europe. We have activated dozens of crisis management cells since 2012, including Lithuania, in cooperation with law enforcement agencies. SACC work has been vital to protect Jews in the continent."

During the forum, the public was invited to discuss the current situation and what could be done to make life in Lithuania good for people of all nationalities, races, religions, genders, social status, political or others opinions – for everyone. The Forum was dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 30th anniversary of Lithuania's membership in the Council of Europe.

The Forum united the academic, governmental and non-governmental sector and international communities.

10 DECEMBER 2023
BRUSSELS

The EJC team participated in the march against antisemitism co-organised by the Coordinating Committee of Belgian Jewish Organizations (CCOJB), the Forum of Jewish Organizations and the Belgian League against Antisemitism.



10 DECEMBER 2023
BRUSSELS

Raya Kalenova and Maria Bagdasarova attended the Gala dinner in celebration of 45 years of the European Union of Jewish Students. Vice-President of the European Commission Vera Jourova was the keynote speaker at this event.



12 DECEMBER 2023
ONLINE

Maria Bagdasarova took part in the second meeting of the Monitoring Group for the project 'Addressing Antisemitism through Education in Europe', which is being implemented by UNESCO in partnership with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, and it is supported by funding from the European Commission under the Erasmus+ program.

12 DECEMBER 2023
EJC OFFICE

The European Jewish Congress hosted a Hanukkah reception in its Brussels office.

Representatives of Jewish organisations, the Belgian Jewish community, journalists, and EU lawmakers gathered in a warm atmosphere to mark this special occasion and strengthen their bonds of friendship and cooperation with the EJC.

Raya Kalenova, Executive Vice-President and CEO of the EJC, welcomed the guests and highlighted that "Hanukkah is a time for Jewish communities to come together and reflect on the importance of unity, faith, and the indomitable spirit of the Jewish people". She also read Hanukkah greetings to the participants from EJC-affiliated communities.

Former and current Presidents of the Coordinating Committee of Belgian Jewish Organisations (CCOJB), along with the President of the European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS), were invited to light the Hanukkah candles, conveying a message of solidarity during these challenging times.



13 DECEMBER 2023
CHARLEMAGNE BUILDING

Raya Kalenova and Maria Bagdasarova attended the celebration to mark the 65th anniversary of the European Economic and Social Committee held during the EESC's plenary session.

19 DECEMBER 2023
BRUSSELS

Caroline Totaro attended the screening of the film "Next Generation" on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the rescue of Bulgarian Jews. The movie revealed previously untold personal stories of two Jewish families who survived the Holocaust and have roots in Bulgaria. The screening was organised by the Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria, and Mr Maxim Delchev, CEO of the EJC-affiliated Organisation of the Jews in Bulgaria (Shalom), addressed the event.

12 JANUARY 2024
BRUSSELS

Ariella Woitchik and Caroline Totaro met with Member of the European Parliament Assita Kanko to express gratitude for her tireless efforts in the fight against antisemitism and her strong support for the hostages and victims of the terrorist attacks on October 7. The discussion included a presentation of the EJC's day-to-day work, missions, activities, and its role within the European Parliament Working Group Against Antisemitism (EP-WGAS).

15 JANUARY
ONLINE

Dylan Bokler and Xavier Ruiz held an online meeting with the representative of the Information and Communication Center for Israel to discuss the ongoing efforts to cooperate on social media.

16 JANUARY
BRUSSELS, AJC OFFICE

Xavier Ruiz participated in a meeting with a X (formerly Twitter) representative and major Jewish organisations. The meeting covered the wave of hatred faced on X's EJC account and the cooperation efforts to improve the moderation of antisemitic content on the platform.

22-23 JANUARY 2024
BRUSSELS, EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Raya Kalenova and Ariella Woitchik participated in the fifth meeting of the European Commission working group on the implementation of the EU strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life.

The meeting brought together representatives of national Jewish communities, international and civil society organisations, national ministries, members of the European Parliament, and high-level officials of the European Union institutions.

Among the issues discussed at the working group were the impact of the Hamas terrorist attacks on European Jewish communities, the rise of online antisemitism, the development and implementation of national strategies against antisemitism, and the IHRA charter for safeguarding Holocaust sites.

EJC Executive Vice-President and CEO Raya Kalenova delivered opening remarks at the working group meeting, alongside European Commission Vice-President Margaritis Schinas, European Commission coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life Katarina von Schnurbein, WJC Executive Vice-President and CEO Maram Stern and Deputy Head of the Mission of Israel to the EU and NATO Jonathan Rosenzweig.

In her speech, Raya Kalenova emphasized the importance of enhancing and strengthening the protection of Jewish communities during these challenging times and highlighted the significant work of SACC by EJC in safeguarding Jewish institutions across the EU and beyond.

EJC Director of European Affairs, Ariella Woitchik, participated in the panel discussion on the 'Impact of the Hamas terrorist attacks on Jewish communities.'

She provided an overview of the repercussions of the Hamas massacre of October 7 on the safety and well-being of European Jewish communities and suggested concrete actions for EU institutions and national authorities to combat antisemitism.

Yad Vashem Chairman Amb. Dani Dayan also addressed the participants and talked about the work of his institution in the midst of the war against Hamas.

Representatives of EJC-affiliated communities from across the European Union were present in the working group meeting and expressed their concerns and worries in the aftermath of the worst tragedy for the Jewish people since the Holocaust.



23 JANUARY 2024
BRUSSELS

European Jewish Congress Executive Vice-President Raya Kalenova held a meeting with Yad Vashem Chairman Amb. Dani Dayan and Head of the Mission of Israel to the EU and NATO Haim Regev. They discussed common challenges following Hamas' brutal attack on Israel, as well as coordinating efforts on combating antisemitism and Holocaust remembrance.



23 JANUARY 2024
BRUSSELS, RESIDENCE PALACE



The European Jewish Congress partnered with the European Commission, the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU, and the Croatian Presidency of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) in the organisation of the Holocaust Remembrance Conference "Remembering the past. Shaping the Future" on the occasion of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

The conference was organised in partnership with Jewish organisations such as the AJC Transatlantic Institute, B'nai B'rith Europe, B'nai B'rith International, European Jewish Community Center, European Union of Jewish Students, and World Jewish Congress.

Among the speakers were Vice-President of the European Commission Margaritis Schinas, European Commission Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life Katharina von Schnurbein, Secretary of State for gender equality, equal opportunities and diversity of Belgium Marie-Colline Leroy, Yad Vashem Chairman Dani Dayan, Vice-President of Working Group against Antisemitism MEP Sergey Lagodinsky and Co-Chairs of the Croatian Presidency of the IHRA Sara Lustig and Ambassador Terezija Grass.



Participants had the opportunity to hear a testimony from Holocaust Survivor Regina Sluszny.

The conference concluded with a panel discussion about the need to safeguard Holocaust sites featuring President of the Luxembourg Foundation for the Memory of the Shoah Laurent Moyses, Chair of the IHRA Museum and Memorials Working Group Simonetta Della Seta, and Chair of the IHRA Project Monitoring Access to Holocaust Collections Veerle Vanden Daelen.

24 JANUARY 2024
BRUSSELS, REPRESENTATION OF THE STATE OF HESSEN TO THE EU

Ariella Woitchik took part in the commemoration, jointly organized by AJC Transatlantic Institute, the Mission of Israel to the EU and NATO, the Embassy of Israel to Belgium and Luxembourg, and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, with the support of the Representation of the State of Hessen to the European Union on the occasion of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

European Commission Vice-President Margaritis Schinas delivered a keynote speech. The remarks were followed by a conversation between Dani Dayan, Yad Vashem Chairman, Katharina von Schnurbein, European Commission Coordinator for combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life, and Yohan Benizri, World Jewish Congress Executive Board Member.

24 JANUARY 2024
BRUSSELS, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Raya Kalenova and Ariella Woitchik attended the presentation of the Austrian Service Abroad and Remembrance Service in the run-up to the International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The event was hosted by Lucas Mandl MEP (EPP, Austria). President of the Austrian National Council Wolfgang Sobotka delivered opening remarks. This was followed by interviews with the young Austrians currently in service

in Brussels. Florian Kössler, Deputy Chairman of the Austrian Service Abroad and a representative of the Austrian Remembrance Service as well as His Excellency Ambassador Thomas Oberreiter, Permanent Representative of Austria to the EU, also addressed the event.

25 JANUARY 2024 BRUSSELS, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Maria Bagdasarova and Caroline Totaro participated in a special plenary session of the European Parliament to mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day. President of the European Parliament Roberta Metsola chaired the event and Irene Shashar, Warsaw Ghetto survivor, addressed the ceremony with a keynote address.

25 JANUARY 2024



BRUSSELS, BOZAR – CENTER FOR FINE ARTS

At an event organised by the European Jewish Congress, over 300 people, including Members of the European Parliament, senior EU officials, ambassadors, representatives of the Jewish community and other minority groups, gathered to mark the International Holocaust Remembrance Day, pledge to fight antisemitism, and honour the memory of the victims.

On the occasion of the 85th anniversary of the Kindertransport operation, participants attended the premiere screening of the movie "One Life", based on the true story of Sir Nicholas Winton, known

for organising the rescue of 669 Czech Jewish children in the months leading up to the outbreak of World War II.

EJC Executive Vice-President Raya Kalenova welcomed the guests and said, "This year the commemoration is different. For three generations already, European Jews, whatever age they are, have the Shoah ingrained in their minds and hearts. The generation of my parents grew up mostly being orphans; my generation grew up without grandparents. This pain is still present in our young generations. Since October 7th, everything has changed for Jewish communities across the world. Hamas's brutal massacre, the most devastating attack against the Jewish people since the Holocaust, has darkened our lives and broken our hearts. The condemnation of the worst pogrom of the 21st century is not being loud enough, giving the impression that there exists an attempt to erase this massacre from our collective memory. We cannot let this happen!"

"While it is impossible not to be sad nowadays, we are also grateful that we have allies, partners, and friends. We know that we can count on our numerous friends in the European institutions and national governments, always and also during these troubling times," expressed Ms Kalenova.

European Commission Vice-President for Values and Transparency Věra Jourová gave the opening remarks and said, "In remembering the horrors of the Holocaust, let us celebrate the people whose humanity and courage shone above darkness, such as Sir Nicholas Winton."

"We want a European Union free from antisemitism, free from all forms of hatred, and to continue to teach the history of the Holocaust to future generations. We owe it to the Jewish people; we must not repeat the fatal mistakes that we made in the previous century" said Ms Jourová.

Member of the European Parliament and of the Working Group against Antisemitism (WGAS) MEP Ilana Cicurel said, "After October 7th, we will never commemorate the Shoah as we used to. We are not the same as last year. International Holocaust Remembrance Day used to refer to the past. The Hamas massacre brought these horrors to the present."

"This movie pays tribute to those who deployed countless efforts to





save children from the Nazi extermination process. Nicholas Winton was one of them. In a time when we are facing an unprecedented outburst of antisemitism in Europe, this film should engage us to celebrate and remember such positive examples."

In his address, His Excellency Martin Shearman, the British Ambassador to Belgium, commemorated the bravery and heroism of Sir Nicholas Winton, along with acknowledging the generosity of British society in rescuing hundreds of Jewish children from the impending threat of the Nazi regime.

The film "One Life," featuring Anthony Hopkins, Helena Bonham Carter, and Jonathan Price, recounts the story of Sir Nicholas 'Nicky' Winton, a London broker who, prior to World War II, saved 669 Jewish children from the Nazis.

In the first three weeks of January 1939, Winton worked from a hotel in Prague, coordinating and collecting applications from parents seeking homes for their

children outside of Czechoslovakia.

His determined efforts resulted in eight Kindertransport trains departing Prague, passing through Nazi territory, and safely bringing these children to the United Kingdom. Czechoslovakia was invaded by the German army on March 15, 1939, and approximately 75,000 Jews were killed by the Nazis in the country during the Holocaust.

Winton's story remained largely unknown until the 1980s when a BBC television show revealed the full extent of his heroic efforts, making his actions public knowledge and introducing him to dozens of the rescued children.

30-31 JANUARY 2024 VIENNA

The European Jewish Congress held its General Assembly in Vienna. Leaders from over 30 Jewish communities across Europe gathered in Austria to discuss recent developments, exchange best practices, and address challenges ahead in the aftermath of the Hamas massacre on October 7, 2023.



The General Assembly was held in cooperation with the EJC's affiliate in Austria, the Jewish Community of Vienna (IKG), headed by Dr Oskar Deutsch.

EJC President Dr Ariel Muzicant, Chair of the Council Francis Kalifat,

and Executive Vice-President and CEO Raya Kalenova chaired the General Assembly.

The meeting included discussions on security, the rise of the far right and far left ahead of the 2024 European elections, the relations between Israel and the diaspora, and the dramatic surge of antisemitism both online and offline following the brutal attack by Hamas.

Israeli Minister Benny Gantz addressed a special video message to the EJC.

Participants had the opportunity to exchange views with H.E. David Roet, Ambassador of the State of Israel to Austria, Representative of the Forum of Families of Israeli Hostages Ambassador Daniel Shek, and Israeli leading expert in security and defense Raphaël Jérusalmy.

Members of the General Assembly also heard presentations of SACC by EJC CEO Ophir Revach, EUJS President Emma Hallali, and Information and Communication Center for Israel CEO Yael Hay.

A solemn and high-level ceremony was held in the Austrian Parliament where the European Jewish Congress awarded Austrian National Council President Wolfgang Sobotka with EJC's highest honour, the Golden Vision Award. Ministers, ambassadors, dignitaries including former Chancellor Sebastian Kurz and leaders of the Austrian Jewish community were among the guests.

During their visit to Vienna, the EJC delegation was received by Federal Minister for the EU and Constitution Karoline Edtstadler in the Federal Chancellery where a reception was held in honour of the EJC delegation.



30 JANUARY 2024
VIENNA, FEDERAL CHANCELLERY

A delegation of EJC General Assembly met with the Federal Minister for the EU and Constitution Karoline Edtstadler in the Federal Chancellery in Vienna.

EJC President Dr Ariel Muzicant thanked the Minister and the Austrian government on behalf of European Jewish communities for their support for the State of Israel and the Jewish people in these difficult times.

The EJC acknowledged Minister Edtstadler's long-standing commitment to the fight against antisemitism and the safeguarding of Jewish citizens and institutions both in Austria and across Europe.

Federal Minister Karoline Edtstadler told the EJC delegation, "The current wave of antisemitism, which emanated from the brutal attack by the terror organization Hamas on October 7, has not spared our Jewish communities in Austria and elsewhere in Europe. Those who spread slogans such as 'From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free' really only have one thing in mind – the annihilation of Israel."

"The security of Israel and Jews worldwide is non-negotiable," she added.

30 JANUARY 2024
VIENNA, AUSTRIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL

The European Jewish Congress bestowed Mag. Wolfgang Sobotka, President of the Austrian National Council, with the 2024 Golden Vision Award in recognition of his long-standing support for the Jewish community of Austria and his commitment to combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life.



In his role as President of the Austrian National Council, the principal legislative chamber of the Austrian Parliament, Wolfgang Sobotka has exhibited extraordinary dedication to the well-being of Austrian Jews, actively engaging in initiatives to commemorate the Holocaust, tirelessly advocating for the fight against antisemitism, and promoting and protecting Jewish culture and traditions.

His work has not only strengthened the bonds between the Austrian government and the Jewish community but has also contributed to fostering a more diverse and welcoming society.

EJC President Dr Ariel Muzicant presented the Golden Vision Award on behalf of EJC's affiliated Jewish communities to President Sobotka during a ceremony held in the Austrian Parliament in the presence of Jewish leaders from over 30 countries across Europe and beyond.

"Mag. Sobotka has always been on our side, both in moments of joy and sorrow, especially during these difficult times for Jews all over



the world. As antisemitism rises in Europe and in Austria alike, we are proud to have Mr. Sobotka as a true friend." Dr Muzicant said.

"In the last 54 years since I have had the privilege to represent the Jewish people in different positions, from "Let my people go" to President of the EJC, the Jewish-Austrian relationship has resembled a roller-coaster ride. But I cannot remember any time where the situation of Austrian Jewry was as good as in the last 5 years. Therefore, lately in many speeches I express how proud I am to be an Austrian Jew. President Sobotka is one of the personalities responsible for this Austrian development and that is why he deserves this recognition." Dr Ariel Muzicant concluded.

"This recognition touches my heart deeply. It is not just an acknowledgment of the Republic of Austria's critical efforts, but a symbol of the collective dedication to a society without hate and where diversity thrives. Antisemitism is not only an affront to the Jewish community but a direct threat to the very core of our democracy and values of the free world. This award reinforces our shared commitment to combatting antisemitism from all sides, preserving the richness of Jewish heritage, and nurturing a democratic spirit that embraces every citizen, irrespective of their background," Wolfgang Sobotka commented.

The Golden Vision Award is the highest honour of the European Jewish Congress, bestowed upon personalities for their outstanding intellectual contribution to a more inclusive world where antisemitism is not tolerated. It was established by Dr Moshe Kantor, EJC President 2007-2022.

The European Jewish Congress strongly supports the honour and recognition of public figures who stand firm against all forms of antisemitism and work towards securing a vibrant and prosperous Jewish future in Europe and beyond.

The Golden Vision award was presented for the first time in 2018 to Ambassador Ronald S. Lauder, President of the World Jewish Congress, for "devoting his life to the flourishing of Judaism, helping Jews reconnect with their roots and helping rebuild Jewish communities across the world" and to Lithuanian writer Ruta Vanagaite for her

courage in shedding light upon one of the most troubling chapters in Lithuanian history.

In 2020, the Golden Vision Award was bestowed on Pope Francis in recognition of his message of brotherhood between Christians and Jews as a living testimony of love and trust in the future of humanity, and his unrelenting commitment to younger generations and promoting solutions to the moral and ethical challenges of our time.

8 FEBRUARY 2024
BRUSSELS, EJC OFFICE

Ariella Woitchik met with Avi Abraham Benlolo, Founding Chairman & CEO at The Abraham Global Peace Initiative (AGPI), to discuss potential avenues of collaboration.

20 FEBRUARY 2024
ONLINE

Ariella Woitchik and Dylan Bokler participated in the consultation event regarding the survey of antisemitic attitudes in the EU, which will be conducted by the Institute for Jewish Policy Research (JPR) for the European Commission in the second half of 2024.

21 FEBRUARY 2024
PARIS, UNESCO HEADQUARTERS

EJC Director of European Affairs Ariella Woitchik delivered the closing remarks at the "Educating against Antisemitism, Intolerance, and Discrimination in France: Essential Elements for Teacher Training" conference organised by UNESCO, DILCRAH, and the French Ministry of Education in Youth, in partnership with the OSCE and the European Commission.



The conference brought together school inspectors, teacher trainers, educators, policymakers, and representatives of Jewish organisations and European institutions to share knowledge and good practices on preventing antisemitism through education.

The focus of the conference was the crucial role of teachers and the capacities that help them recognise, prevent, and respond to antisemitism in schools, and discuss practical ways to enhance cooperation in the fight against hatred in the educational field.

Ariella Woitchik spoke about the need to make schools a safe place for Jewish students amid rising antisemitism in Europe after the Hamas massacre on October 7th, and on the importance of educating future generations about the history of the Shoah, the dangers of Jewish hatred and also the diverse culture and life of the Jewish people.

"It is unacceptable that in 2024, parents of Jewish faith find themselves living in fear of sending their children to school, or that they have to advise them to hide their identity in public. Dozens of Jewish schools have been evacuated due to bomb threats, and Jewish students in many public schools face constant harassment, both online and offline."

"Educators and teachers play a decisive role in raising awareness about the dangers of antisemitism in our societies. To counter antisemitism, a form distinct from racism, it is necessary to explain its specific nature, origins, and evolution over time. It is crucial to dismantle conspiracy theories and misinformation while providing young people with the necessary skills to navigate the internet, empowering them with critical thinking abilities," said Ariella Woitchik.

She concluded by thanking UNESCO, Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director-General for Education at UNESCO and the team headed by Karel Fracapane, Programme Specialist Education Sector, for their engagement and support in the fight against antisemitism and conspiracy theories.

1 MARCH 2024 **BRUSSELS CITY HALL**

Raya Kalenova and Maria Bagdasarova attended the concert and reception on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Bulgaria hosted by Ambassador of Bulgaria to Belgium and Luxembourg Plamen Bonchev and Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the European Union Rumen Alexandrov.

5 MARCH 2024 **BRUSSELS, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

Raya Kalenova and Caroline Totaro together with Eitan Bergman, Secretary General of CCOJB, EJC's affiliate in Belgium, met with the cabinet of Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament, to discuss the possibility of hosting a commemoration ceremony on the premises of the European Parliament to honour the memory of the victims of October 7th and to call for the release of all the hostages held by Hamas in the Gaza strip.

7 MARCH 2024 **BRUSSELS, PLACE DU LUXEMBOURG**



Raya Kalenova visited an immersive exhibit in front of the European Parliament. It featured a replica of a tunnel in Gaza, aimed at shedding light on the daily suffering of Israeli hostages held in captivity by Hamas terrorists since October 7.

17 MARCH 2024 **BRUSSELS, RADIO JUDAICA**

Caroline Totaro participated in an interview on Radio Judaica, a French-language Jewish radio station in Belgium. The discussion aimed to promote an event focusing on the systematic sexual violence perpetrated by Hamas against Israeli women during the October 7 attacks in Israel. This important event was scheduled to take place at the Jewish Secular Community Centre (CCLJ), in partnership with the Mission of Israel to the EU and NATO, AJC Transatlantic Institute, B'nai B'rith International, ELNET, and the World Jewish Congress.

18 MARCH 2024
BRUSSELS, EJC OFFICE



The EJC hosted a delegation of young Jewish activists as part of the 2024 EU Activism Seminar organised by the European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS).

The EU Activism seminar is a flagship initiative of EUJS to introduce young Jewish activists to the EU institutions and the advocacy efforts of Jewish civil society organisations.

This was the ninth time that the EUJS delegation visited the EJC, signalling the strong partnership, friendship and commitment of both organisations in the service of European Jewish communities.

18 MARCH 2024
PARIS, ÉLYSÉE PALACE



Raya Kalenova attended the 80th-anniversary reception of the Representative Council of Jewish Institutions in France (CRIF) at the Elysée Palace in Paris. The event was hosted by the President of the French Republic Emmanuel Macron.

During his address, he defined antisemitism as the "intimate enemy of universalism" and pledged to tirelessly fight it with "the same firmness and integrity" after the October 7th Hamas massacre.

"Every time the slightest trace of antisemitism reappears, we will be uncompromising, as we have always been, and as my predecessors were

before me," he said.

CRIF President Yonathan Arfi expressed concern over the increasing number of antisemitic incidents in the country following the events of October 7th and commented on the organisation's work after 80 years of activity.

"The voice of CRIF is that of nearly 80 organisations that comprise

it, forming a Jewish, secular, and citizen voice. A free voice that some would like to silence, while it will always uphold the spirit of the French Republic," expressed Arfi.

"It is now our collective responsibility to nurture the spirit of resistance that we have inherited. Not the disobedience claimed by some agitators, but indeed the resistance of the values of justice and emancipation that underpin our republican pact."

He emphasized that "our republican values have never been under such sustained attack in the past 80 years."

CRIF President called for the establishment of a parliamentary inquiry commission on antisemitism in universities in France.

Present at the Élysée Palace were the main leaders of the French Jewish community, accompanied by representatives from other religions, as well as Prime Minister Gabriel Attal, President of the French National Assembly Yaël Braun-Pivet, and Minister of the Interior Gérald Darmanin, among other senior politicians and ministers.



19 MARCH 2024
BRUSSELS, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The European Jewish Congress co-organised an event in the European Parliament focusing on the systematic sexual violence perpetrated by Hamas against Israeli women during the October 7 attacks in Israel.

The event was co-hosted by Vice-President of the European Parliament Pina Picierno (S&D), MEP Ilana Cicurel (Renew Europe), MEP Assita Kanko (ECR), MEP Monika Hohlmeier (EPP) and MEP Katrin Langensiepen (Greens/EFA).

Following International Women's Day and taking stock of the recent UN Report by the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict confirming the use of sexual violence by Hamas, including rape, sexualized torture, and inhumane treatment against hostages and victims in Israel, the event aimed at raising awareness of the plight of Israeli women towards an indifferent international community.



EJC Director of European Affairs Ariella Woitchik moderated the event.

In her opening remarks, French MEP Ilana Cicurel said that this event showed that there are European voices determined to “speak up for Israeli women, denounce Hamas sexual torture, and defend the universal cause of women’s rights”.

“History has taught us that when confronted with infamy, despite the abundance of proof that Hamas terrorists proudly recorded, there are some who refuse to acknowledge the reality of the October 7th massacre. We didn’t know that all of us who are involved in women’s rights would have to face the silence of feminist organisations” expressed Cicurel.

For its part, Belgian MEP Assita Kanko emphasized that as “elected representatives, our responsibility is to be intellectually curious and to open our eyes when we see injustice, but when MEPs refuse to discuss the brutal aggression that women suffered in the hands of Hamas because they are uncomfortable, we have a problem”.

“Our commitment is to speak the truth about what happened to Israeli women and denounce the political silence that perpetuates the violation of women’s rights. Hard facts need to be recognised, and this persistent denial is shocking. We need to speak up about what happened on October 7th, and we need justice”.

German MEP Monika Hohlmeier remarked that while “there is significant attention from feminist organisations regarding various forms of violence against women, we haven’t heard anything from them about the Israeli women that were tortured by Hamas, whose bodies were exploited and treated as if they weren’t human beings”.

“I’m frustrated that some in the European Parliament don’t believe Israeli women. If there is brutal violence against Israeli women, every woman needs to stand and fight with us. I would expect all women’s organisations to be outspoken and condemn sexual violence, which serves as a medal for Hamas terrorists.”

After the remarks from MEPs and Israeli Ambassador to the EU and NATO, H.E. Haim Regev, two distinguished speakers offered invaluable insights into the matter: Prof. Yifat Bitton, a law professor and President of the Achva Academic College of Science & Education in Israel, as well as the co-founder of Tmura, The Israeli Center for Equality, and Orit Sulitzeanu, Executive Director of The Association of Rape Crisis Centers in Israel (ARCCI).

Additionally, the audience had the opportunity to listen to testimonies from two released hostages who were held in the Gaza Strip by Hamas.

The event was organised in partnership with the AJC Transatlantic Institute, B’nai B’rith International, ELNET, World Jewish Congress, and the Mission of the State of Israel to the European Union and NATO.

20 MARCH 2024 ONLINE

Ariella Woitchik and Caroline Totaro held a conference call with Shannon Seban, a French municipal councilor in Rosny-sous-Bois (Paris) and a member of the Renaissance Party. The discussion primarily focused on the pressing challenges faced by Jewish communities, including the alarming rise of antisemitism and the current actions being undertaken at the European level to address these issues.

20 MARCH 2024 BRUSSELS, CCLJ - JEWISH SECULAR COMMUNITY CENTRE

The European Jewish Congress co-organised an event focusing on the systematic sexual violence perpetrated by Hamas against Israeli women during the October 7 attacks in Israel.

The opening remarks were delivered by the Ambassador of Israel to the EU and NATO, H.E. Haim Regev, who called on European and international institutions to condemn these terrible acts and stand in solidarity with the Israeli victims.

‘When we remain silent in the face of such barbarity, we contribute to it,’ said Ambassador Regev.

‘We have to give a voice to the voiceless. Sexual violence is a weapon of terror and must be condemned widely. Together we can and must make a difference,’ he added.

After Ambassador Regev, Member of the Regional Parliament of Brussels, MP Viviane Teitelbaum, said that she is a committed feminist but today she feels lonely. ‘Women have been raped, but feminist organisations are silent about these crimes, expressing denial and indifference. Rape is never resistance,’ she stated.

‘October 7th has been the site of a mass femicide, and the condemnation of sexual violence cannot be adjusted to who is the victim of the conflict. Regardless of the identities of the victims, such actions have to be condemned.’





The keynote speaker of the event was Professor Yifat Bitton, co-founder and chair of Tmura, the Israeli Center for Equality, and President of Achva Academic College of Science & Education in Israel, who engaged in a dialogue with MP Teitelbaum where she shed light on the atrocities committed by Hamas against Israeli women and the indifferent and apathetic reaction from international human rights organisations to the

evidence presented by the UN report of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict.

Additionally, the audience had the opportunity to listen to testimonies from two released hostages who were held in the Gaza Strip by Hamas.

The event was organised in partnership with the Mission of Israel to the European Union and NATO, AJC Transatlantic Institute, B'nai B'rith International, ELNET, and the World Jewish Congress.

21 MARCH 2024
ONLINE

Ariella Woitchik and Caroline Totaro held a conference call with Sharon Buenos, Global Director of Zikaron BaSalon, to discuss the ongoing cooperation and outline future plans.

21 MARCH 2024
ONLINE

Ariella Woitchik, Maria Bagdasarova and Dylan Bokler held a conference call with Dany Prist and András Ligeti of the World Jewish Congress to coordinate schedules for upcoming activities, identify projects for collaboration and discuss future plans.

21 MARCH 2024
BRUSSELS, EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Ariella Woitchik took part in the round table of major Brussels-based Jewish organisations, hosted by the office of the European Commission Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life Katharina von Schnurbein.

21 MARCH 2024
BRUSSELS

Ariella Woitchik took part in a briefing organised by the Israeli Mission to the EU and NATO where Israeli officials presented evidence of the involvement of UNRWA in Hamas.

27 MARCH 2024
ONLINE

Ariella Woitchik, Maria Bagdasarova and Caroline Totaro held a conference call with Heather Mann, Associate Project Officer, Section for Global Citizenship and Peace Education, Education Sector at UNESCO, to discuss the ongoing collaboration.

31 MARCH – 2 APRIL 2024
ISRAEL



An EJC delegation consisting of President Dr Ariel Muzicant and Members of the EJC Executive Committee held a series of bilateral meetings in Israel with high-level politicians and Israeli organisations alongside the American Jewish Committee (AJC), led by its CEO Ted Deutch.

The delegation travelled to Israel to express their full solidarity and unconditional support for the Jewish state in its fight against the terrorist organisation Hamas. EJC expressed its readiness to help the Israeli people in all possible ways.

Participants held meetings with Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz, Speaker of the Knesset Amir Ohana and American Ambassador to Israel Jack Lew, among other relevant stakeholders and partners.

The EJC delegation had the possibility to discuss with Israeli politicians about the rise of antisemitism in Europe after the Hamas massacre of October 7th and the current situation of Jewish communities and organisations on the European continent. A commitment to further reinforce the collaboration between the EJC and Israeli ministries, especially with the Foreign Ministry, was expressed by all.

The EJC delegation also had a very moving meeting with hostages' families and joined their calls for the immediate release of their loved ones.

3 APRIL 2024
ISRAEL



EJC President Dr Ariel Muzicant joined an Austrian delegation led by President of the National Council Wolfgang Sobotka on mission to Israel. The purpose was to witness the aftermath of the October 7 atrocities, meet with families of Israelis still held hostage by Hamas, and engage in a series of high-level bilateral meetings. As part of the delegation, Dr Muzicant held numerous private meetings with Israeli politicians and relevant stakeholders.

The Austrian delegation received a warm welcome from Israeli authorities, who expressed profound appreciation for Austria's enduring support for the State of Israel and its staunch defense of the Jewish state in international forums, highlighting the strong friendship between Austria and Israel.

Sobotka held a meeting with his Israeli counterpart MK Amir Ohana in the Knesset where he expressed the support of the Austrian government for the State of Israel after the Hamas massacre of October 7th.

"The terror organisation Hamas is responsible for all that happens in Israel and Gaza. We need to bring the hostages back home now, without any conditions, and Israel has a right to defend itself. And when Hamas is disarmed, and the hostages come back, the war comes to an end. That's the fact," said Wolfgang Sobotka in a press conference in the Israeli Parliament.

"And we stand together with the State of Israel. For us, it is crucial to support what Israel is doing to bring safety and security for its population."

During their visit to the Knesset, the delegation met with Israeli ministers and MKs from both the governing coalition and the opposition, including former Prime Minister Yair Lapid, MK Yuli Edelstein and MK Mansour Abbas.

In the morning, the Austrian delegation meet with Israeli President Isaac Herzog in Jerusalem.

"Thank you for your visit, your friendship, and your solidarity with the Israeli people. Israel is engaged in a brutal war against a cruel enemy which continues to hold 134 of our people hostage in Gaza. We are facing an empire of evil which emanates from Tehran and reaches across the region and the world" said Herzog.

The delegation visited the Kibbutz Kfar Aza with Speaker of the Knesset Amir Ohana where they met families of the victims of the October 7th attack by Hamas, including Shimon Portal, whose daughter was murdered. More than 40 of its residents were killed by the terrorist organisation on that day.

3 APRIL 2024
ONLINE

Maria Bagdasarova and Xavier Ruiz held a conference call with an IT company GoBubble to discuss the ongoing collaboration regarding GoBubble's AI content moderation tool and the role of AI in fighting online antisemitism.

4 APRIL 2024
ONLINE

The EJC team took part in a meeting with the teams of the World Jewish Congress, B'nai B'rith International and AJC Transatlantic Institute to discuss the planning for a coordinated joined social media campaign aiming at engaging and informing European Jewish citizens about the upcoming EU elections and their implications.

9 APRIL 2024
BRUSSELS, EJC OFFICE

Ariella Woitchik and Caroline Totaro held a meeting with Alain Kupchik, the incoming Executive Director of IMAJ (Institut de la Mémoire Audiovisuelle Juive). The meeting focused on discussing his vision for the institute's future, IMAJ's upcoming projects, and potential collaborations with EJC.

9 APRIL 2024
BRUSSELS, LISZT INSTITUTE - HUNGARIAN CULTURAL CENTER



EJC Executive Vice-President Raya Kalenova took part in a commemorative event ahead of the Memorial Day of the Hungarian Victims of the Holocaust, hosted by H.E. Mr. Tamás Iván Kovács, Ambassador of Hungary to Belgium and Luxembourg.

The Memorial Day of the Hungarian Victims of the Holocaust, observed on 16 April, this year marks a somber 80th anniversary. On that day in 1944, the first ghettos were established in North-Eastern Hungary and Transcarpathia, paving the way for the tragic fate of over 550,000 Hungarian Jews who perished during the Holocaust.

The event held featured an opening speech by H.E. Ambassador Tamás Iván Kovács and a compelling testimony by Baroness Regina Suchowolski-Sluszny, who survived as a hidden child during the Holocaust in Belgium.

"Looking back from the present to the past at the milestone of eight decades, the horrors of the Holocaust can be truly discovered only if we look closely the human destinies, the victims and their specific life path," said Ambassador Kovács.

"The survivors can tell us what was the world like that took away first the dignity of the European Jews. The world that later took away the freedom of the European Jews. The world that at the end took away the life of European Jews."

The commemoration culminated with a poignant moment of a solemn ceremony where Raya Kalenova lit one of the memorial candles in remembrance of six million Jews killed in the Holocaust.

The event was attended by ambassadors, representatives from the Jewish community, other minority groups, and civil society organisations.

15 APRIL 2024
MECHELEN, KAZERNE DOSSIN

The EJC team attended a conference "Track of Time: Preserving Holocaust Memory via Railway Remembrance" organised by the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The event addressed by President of the Belgian Senate Stephanie D'Hose aimed to shed light on the historical significance on the role of railway organisations in facilitating the deportations of Jews, Roma and politically persecuted individuals during the Holocaust.



17 APRIL 2024

BRUSSELS, ISRAELI MISSION TO THE EU AND NATO

Raya Kalenova and Ariella Woitchik took part in a periodic briefing given to Brussels-based Jewish organisations by H.E. Amb. Haim Regev, Head of Israeli Mission to the EU and NATO.

16-17 APRIL 2024

BRUSSELS, EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Maria Bagdasarova and Ariella Woitchik participated in a kick-off meeting for the beneficiaries of the European Commission's CERV and JUST programmes action grants, following 2023 DG JUST calls.

17 APRIL 2024

BRUSSELS

Raya Kalenova and Caroline Totaro participated in a lunch meeting of the Joseph Wybran Circle organised by the Coordinating Committee of Belgian Jewish Organisations (CCOJB). The keynote speakers were Viviane Teitelbaum, member of the Brussels Parliament, and H.E. Jean-Luc Bodson, Ambassador of Belgium to Israel.

17 APRIL 2024

BRUSSELS, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



Ariella Woitchik participated in a discussion meeting with MEP Vasco Becker-Weinberg (EPP) about the alarming increase of antisemitism in Europe. The meeting was attended by various Brussels-based Jewish organisation, as well as MEPs Assita Kanko (ECR) and Dietmar Köster (S&D).

MAY 6, 2024

VIENNA, AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

EJC President Dr Ariel Muzicant participated in a panel discussion at the 3rd European Conference on Antisemitism at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna, focusing on the increasing antisemitism in universities and social media.

The panel included United States Special Envoy for Monitoring and Combating Antisemitism Deborah Lipstadt, European Commission Coordinator on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life Katharina von Schnurbein, President Emeritus of the Hudson Institute Ken Weinstein, AJC Chief Policy and Political Affairs Officer Jason Isaacson and Edel Malowicki of the Austrian Integration Fund.

MAY 7, 2024
PARIS, CARROUSEL DU LOUVRE



EJC President Dr Ariel Muzicant and EJC Director for European Affairs Ariella Woitchik attended CRIF annual dinner at the Carrousel du Louvre in Paris.

The event brings together French and international Jewish leaders as well as politicians, ambassadors, artists, writers, religious figures, and media personalities.

French Prime Minister Gabriel Attal was this year's guest of honour. During his speech, he said that he will "relentlessly combat antisemitism in all its forms, as it is a stain on our Republic. To defend French Jews is to defend the entire nation".

MAY 8, 2024
BRUSSELS, EUROPEAN COMMISSION

EJC Vice President Raya Kalenova and EJC Director of European Affairs Ariella Woitchik participated in the 15th EU-Israel High-Level Seminar on combating racism, xenophobia, and antisemitism that took place in the European Commission in Brussels.

The discussion of the 15th EU-Israel Seminar focused on the alarming spike of antisemitism after October 7 and its impact on Jewish communities in Europe. Several experts raised new challenges in the fight against antisemitism, both online and offline, including the use of artificial intelligence and coded language to spread hatred.

MAY 21-22, 2024
JERUSALEM

An EJC delegation participated in a World Jewish Congress meeting of the organisation's Executive Committee, followed by a solidarity mission to Israel. The mission included visits to sites associated with the October 7th attacks and a meeting with Israeli President Isaac Herzog. The delegation also met with Knesset Speaker Amir Ohana and Meirav Cohen.

MAY 22, 2024
BELGIUM

The European Jewish Congress organised an educational field trip for high school students from Montgomery International School to sites associated with Jewish life and culture in Belgium, along with locations commemorating the Holocaust and the WWII.

Students had the opportunity to explore Judaism's heritage in the country, comprehend its history and culture, and understand the impact of the Nazi occupation on Belgium and its Jewish community.



The educational journey began at Fort Breendonk, a Nazi political prison and concentration camp used to detain resistance fighters, political dissidents, Jews, and those deemed enemies of the Third Reich during the war. Students discovered how prisoners were forced to live under harsh conditions and examined Breendonk's critical role in the broader deportation efforts across Europe.

Following their visit to Breendonk, students visited the Jewish Museum of Belgium where they had the opportunity to gain insight into Jewish identity, discover the life cycle in Judaism, and learn about Jewish culture and traditions. During the guided tour, they saw objects and pictures representing different important moments in Jewish life.

The day concluded with a visit to the Great Synagogue of Europe, located in Brussels. During their time at the synagogue, students engaged in an intimate conversation with Baroness Regina Slusznysuchowolski and Baron Julien Klener, two Holocaust survivors and hidden children, who managed to evade Nazi persecution during the war.

Two members of the Union of Jewish Students of Belgium (UEJB) participated in the field trip and had the opportunity to talk with the high school students about their experiences on campus.

JUNE 3, 2024
BRUSSELS



European Jewish Congress Executive Vice-President Raya Kalenova hosted a dinner in honour of the upcoming Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Permanent representatives to the European Union, bilateral ambassadors, European Commission officials, diplomats, Belgian Jewish community leaders, and members of Jewish organisations based in Brussels gathered to mark this special occasion and strengthen their bonds of friendship and cooperation.

EJC Executive Vice-President Raya Kalenova expressed her best wishes for the success of the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. She acknowledged the long-term collaboration between the EJC and Hungary in combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life, commending the country's longstanding commitment, solidarity, and support for the Jewish community in the country and in Europe, especially during the ongoing difficult times.

Among the distinguished guests were twelve ambassadors alongside diplomatic representatives and officials.

JUNE 27, 2024
BRUSSELS

EJC Executive Vice-President Raya Kalenova participated in the celebration of Israel Independence Day in Brussels organised by the Mission of Israel to the EU and NATO and the Embassy of Israel to Belgium and Luxembourg.

JULY 2, 2024
BRUSSELS, BOZAR

EJC Executive Vice-President Raya Kalenova and Director of European Affairs Ariella Woitchik attended the opening ceremony of the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

This prestigious event showcased Hungary's rich historic and cultural heritage as well as its commitment to strengthening European cooperation.

Ambassador Bálint Ódor, Permanent Representative of Hungary to the European Union, opened the event, followed by Tamás Sulyok, President of Hungary, who delivered a keynote speech stressing the importance of European unity. He recalled Hungary's successful EU Presidency 13 years ago and expressed confidence in repeating that success, citing Hungary's experience and preparedness.

The evening's highlight was an outstanding performance titled "Our European Heritage" by artists from the Müpa Budapest performing arts center. This impressive performance underscored Hungary's rich cultural diversity and shared heritage that strengthen Europe.

"This unforgettable event marked the beginning of the Hungarian Presidency in the best possible manner. We are thankful for the invitation and are confident that this groundbreaking inauguration will pave the way for great accomplishments in the coming months," said EJC Executive Vice-President Raya Kalenova.

JULY 11, 2024
BRUSSELS, HUNGARIAN REPRESENTATION TO THE EU

European Jewish Congress Executive Vice-President Raya Kalenova held a productive meeting with Hungarian Minister for European Affairs Bóka János in Brussels, where they discussed areas of cooperation in light of the Hungarian presidency of the Council of the EU and agreed on the development of joint initiatives in the coming months to strengthen the security of Jewish communities amid rising antisemitism.



EJC Executive Vice-President Raya Kalenova highlighted, "Hungary's assumption of the presidency of the Council of the EU is an opportunity to write a new chapter in fostering Jewish life in these particularly challenging times."

JULY 12, 2024

ONLINE

European Jewish Congress Director of European Affairs Ariella Woitchik addressed a European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) event on the occasion of the release of its third survey on antisemitism in Europe.

Ms Woitchik thanked the FRA for their work and insisted on the importance of such surveys. She spoke about how the concerning findings of the 2023 survey relate to the experiences of Jewish communities in Europe, amid the dramatic rise of antisemitism both online and offline, even before the Hamas massacre of 7 October.

"Antisemitism has been instrumentalised at the political level and has continued to fill the online sphere, resulting in violent physical attacks. The driving force behind the increase of antisemitism nowadays is anti-Zionist rhetoric, and it is fundamental that national authorities, social media companies and civil society organisations recognise this," said EJC Director of European Affairs. "Jewish communities expect more funding for their security, better enforcement of hate crimes laws and full implementation of the EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life", she concluded.

The event brought together representatives of Jewish communities and organisations, EU officials, lawmakers from national governments and international organisations, educators, and members of the general public.

It included the participation of FRA Director Sirpa Rautio, Project Manager Angelika Grabher-Wusche, and European Commission Coordinator for Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life Katharina von Schnurbein.

JULY 15-18, 2024

STRASBOURG, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

EJC Director of European Affairs Ariella Woitchik and Head of Projects and Diplomatic Affairs Maria Bagdasarova travelled to Strasbourg to attend the first plenary session of the European Parliament following the 2024 European elections.

During their visit, they held a series of high-level meetings with Members of the European Parliament from across the political spectrum. The discussions focused on reinforcing the European Union's commitment to combating antisemitism, supporting Jewish life across Europe, and securing the continuation and strengthening of the Working Group Against Antisemitism in the new parliamentary term.

The delegation emphasised the importance of sustained political engagement and institutional cooperation in addressing the growing challenges facing Jewish communities. These meetings continued throughout the following months as part of a broader engagement strategy led by the EJC across 2024 and 2025.

AUGUST 2024

SWEDEN, FINLAND, ESTONIA, LATVIA, DENMARK

European Jewish Congress President Dr Ariel Muzicant visited the organisation's affiliated communities in Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, and Denmark. The visit aimed to strengthen ties, address local challenges, and discuss future initiatives to support Jewish life in these regions.

During his visit, Dr Muzicant met with community leaders and members to better understand the unique needs and concerns in each country. His discussions focused on issues such as combating antisemitism, preserving Jewish heritage, and enhancing educational and cultural programmes. He emphasised the importance of solidarity and cooperation among Jewish communities across Europe during these challenging times.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

VIENNA, AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENT

A delegation of the European Jewish Congress, consisting of President Dr Ariel Muzicant, Director of European Affairs Ariella Woitchik, and the presidents of EJC-affiliated communities, took part in the "Never Again? Democracy Cannot Tolerate Antisemitism," conference in the Austrian Parliament.

The conference, organised at the initiative of Austrian National Council President Wolfgang Sobotka, convened parliamentarians from 22 nations, including Speaker of the Israeli Knesset Amir Ohana, Members of the European Parliament, EU officials, and Jewish community leaders from around the world, to confront the escalating antisemitic threats with a united and decisive response.

EJC President Dr Ariel Muzicant delivered one of the welcome speeches at the conference, underscoring the urgent need for coordinated action to combat the alarming rise in antisemitism across Europe, which threatens not only Jewish communities but also the core values of democracy, human rights, and personal freedoms.

SEPTEMBER 18, 2024
PARIS, ÉLYSÉE PALACE



EJC Chair of the Council and former CRIF President Francis Kalifat was awarded the French Legion of Honour during a ceremony at the Élysée Palace in Paris.

French President Emmanuel Macron conferred upon him the insignia of Chevalier of the National Order of the Legion of Honour, recognising Kalifat's extensive work within France's Jewish community and his efforts in combating antisemitism and hatred.

EJC Executive Vice-President Raya Kalenova was invited to attend the ceremony alongside prominent French and European figures from the worlds of politics, arts, and community leadership.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2024
BRUSSELS, HUNGARIAN REPRESENTATION TO THE EU



European Jewish Congress Director of European Affairs Ariella Woitchik addressed a seminar organised by the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the EU in connection with the "International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief" in Brussels.

The event, held at the Permanent Representation of Hungary to the European Union, aimed to provide valuable insights into religious discrimination and to enhance the knowledge and efforts of community leaders and European officials and organisations in tackling these challenges.

Ms Woitchik was a speaker on the main panel, where she highlighted the alarming rise of antisemitism in Europe, the expressions of which have become more and more uninhibited following the brutal Hamas attack on 7 October. Her contribution underscored the urgent need for action and support for vulnerable communities during these challenging times.

SEPTEMBER 26, 2024
BUDAPEST, RUMBACH SYNAGOGUE



Executive Vice-President and CEO of the European Jewish Congress (EJC) Raya Kalenova addressed the 6th Meeting of the Working Group on the Implementation of the EU Strategy on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life in Budapest. The meeting held at the Rumbach synagogue was organised by the European Commission in cooperation with the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the EU.

Speaking on behalf of European Jewish communities, Ms Kalenova emphasised the shift in focus for European Jewry, stating that "before October 7th, our biggest concern was how to foster Jewish life on the continent. However, nowadays, we find ourselves questioning what we would be able to foster if parents are scared to bring their kids to Jewish schools, Jewish students fear going to university campuses, and worshippers are scared to pray at synagogues. Despite the undeniable evidence and facts when it comes to Jews – it seems people become blind and deaf."

Ms Kalenova raised awareness of the current reality, exacerbated by the demonisation of the State of Israel in public discourse. "Now more than ever, antisemitism, thinly disguised as anti-Zionism, is being expressed openly across Europe, including by politicians, journalists, and artists. Fuelling Jew-hate and encouraging violent physical and online attacks against Jewish individuals has real consequences. We must act now and adopt a strict and robust stance against those within our European societies who seek to destroy the only Jewish state"



The meeting brought together representatives of national Jewish communities, international and civil society organisations, national ministries, and senior officials from European institutions, including the European Commission Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life, Katharina von Schnurbein.

The participants of the Working Group were warmly hosted and welcomed by the Federation of Jewish Communities in Hungary (MAZSIHISZ) and its President, Dr Andor Grósz, in the Hungarian capital.

SEPTEMBER 27, 2024 BUDAPEST, FEDERATION OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN HUNGARY



In the framework of the 6th meeting of the Working Group on the implementation of the EU strategy for combating antisemitism, which took place in Budapest, EJC Executive Vice-President Raya Kalenova engaged in a productive meeting with the leadership of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Hungary (MAZSIHISZ).

A meeting of the MAZSIHISZ board, which included the community's Vice-Presidents and its Chief Rabbi, was organised to honour the presence of the EJC Executive Vice-President Ms Raya Kalenova. The discussions focused on the current challenges faced by European Jewish communities, with a particular emphasis on the unique realities and concerns of Hungarian Jews. Key topics included rising antisemitism, community security, and the importance of preserving Jewish heritage in Hungary.

This meeting highlighted the ongoing and close cooperation between the European Jewish Congress and its Hungarian affiliate, fostering dialogue and collaboration to address the pressing issues facing European Jews.

OCTOBER 1, 2024 BRUSSELS, PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF THE STATE OF BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

EJC Director of European Affairs Ariella Woitchik addressed a roundtable discussion on the role of education in tackling antisemitism in Europe at the Permanent Representation of the State of Baden-Württemberg to the European Union in Brussels on Monday, 30 September 2024.

The event was organised by UNESCO and the Ministries of Education of the German Länder of Baden-Württemberg and Schleswig-Holstein, in partnership with the Kultusministerkonferenz and the OSCE/ODIHR.

In her intervention, Ms Woitchik emphasised the critical role of education in combating antisemitism, preserving Holocaust memory, and fostering Jewish life. She also highlighted the challenges posed by the aftermath of the October 7th massacre and the growing wave of antisemitism across Europe, particularly within the educational environment, affecting both teachers and students.

The discussion was attended by education professionals and government officials, as well as UNESCO and European Commission officials, diplomats, and representatives of Jewish umbrella organisations. The event also included a musical interlude in which Mélina Burlaud and Claire Beaudouin interpreted works composed by Jewish authors during or before the Holocaust.

The roundtable was held on the eve of an international conference on addressing antisemitism, intolerance, and discrimination: effective pedagogies for teacher training in Germany. This conference is part of a UNESCO project funded by the European Commission and the OSCE, which spans 12 European countries and aims to address antisemitism through educational activities tailored to local needs.



OCTOBER 2, 2024
BUCHAREST



A delegation from the European Jewish Congress (EJC), consisting of President Dr Ariel Muzicant, Executive Vice-President and CEO Raya Kalenova, and the Presidents of EJC-affiliated communities, participated in the event marking the 145th anniversary of Jewish citizenship in Romania, held in Bucharest.

The event was organised by the Romanian government under the leadership of Prime Minister Ion-Marcel Ciolacu, in collaboration with the Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania, led by its President, MP Silviu Vexler, and his team.

Throughout the day, the delegation was warmly received by high-ranking Romanian politicians at their respective premises, showcasing the nation's strong and long-standing commitment to fostering Jewish life and combating antisemitism both nationally and across Europe.

This unprecedented event highlighted the Romanian government's enduring dedication to protecting Jewish communities and supporting

the State of Israel. It was a powerful display of friendship, understanding, and commitment to the security of the Jewish people.

The event was imbued with deep emotion, making it truly unforgettable, as members of the delegation expressed their gratitude for witnessing the vibrant Jewish community in Romania. The respect and appreciation shown by the government towards the President of the Jewish community and its members were profoundly evident to all those who participated.

The delegation also attended the unveiling of a national currency dedicated to the 145th anniversary of Jewish citizenship in Romania at the National Bank of Romania, where they met the Governor of the National Bank and visited the Choral Temple.

A highlight of the event was a commemoration of the expulsion of Jewish musicians and artists from cultural institutions during the Holocaust. At the start, participants heard addresses by the President of the State of Israel Isaac Herzog, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Romanian Prime Minister Ion-Marcel Ciolacu, and the President of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania, MP Silviu Vexler.

The official part was followed by an unforgettable concert performed by the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Maestro Zubin Mehta, alongside celebrated pianist Martha Argerich. The concert was followed by a State Dinner hosted by the Government of Romania for the participants.

OCTOBER 6, 2024
BRUSSELS

The EJC partnered with its Belgian affiliate, the CCOJB, Bring Them Home Belgium, and other local and international Jewish entities in the organisation of an event in Brussels commemorating the victims of the October 7th Hamas massacre and the hostages held in the Gaza Strip.

OCTOBER 7, 2024
VIENNA, AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENT

EJC President Dr Ariel Muzicant spoke at a ceremony in the Austrian Parliament commemorating the victims of October 7th massacre organised by Austrian National Council President Wolfgang Sobotka.

EJC President Ariel Muzicant opposed what he perceives as one-sided demands for a ceasefire from Israel, criticising the prolonged policy of "appeasement" whose failures are now evident. He emphasised that the international community must hold accountable those in the Middle East who escalate the conflict and act to stop their aggressions

against Israel. Particularly, he insisted that Europe must present a united and resolute stance against Iran, whose regime has threatened Israel with destruction for decades.

OCTOBER 9, 2024
BRUSSELS



On the one-year anniversary of the tragic Hamas massacre on 7th October 2023, the European Jewish Congress (EJC) held a deeply emotional gathering in Brussels to commemorate the victims and support the Israeli hostages still held in Gaza. The occasion featured a conference by renowned French-Algerian author Mohamed Sifaoui, known for his unwavering commitment to exposing extremism and his courageous stance against terrorism.

EJC Executive Vice-President Raya Kalenova delivered welcoming remarks, emphasising the profound sense of loss and the urgent need for unity after the deadliest attack against the Jewish people since the Holocaust.

Yves Oschinsky, President of the Coordinating Committee of Belgian Jewish Organisations (CCOJB), spoke with deep frustration and concern. "Our absolute priority is to bring the hostages home from Gaza," he said.

Mr Sifaoui provided an expert analysis of the organisation Hamas, the dangers of Islamism, its connections with Iran and the Muslim Brotherhood, and the reaction of the West against its threat. He also discussed the ongoing events in the Middle East and their far-reaching consequences in Europe since the 7th of October attacks.

The discussion was moderated by Belgian Senator Viviane Teitelbaum, ensuring an engaging dialogue on this critical topic.

Mr Sifaoui presented his latest book, titled Hamas, where he explores the history of this organisation and its brutal methodology, which ultimately led to the worst massacre against Jews since the Holocaust. He provided a clear perspective on its motivations, ideology, and desire to destroy the State of Israel while addressing its significant impact on both regional and global politics.

During the event, participants were introduced to the Coming Home Soon initiative, focused on illuminating the dire situation of each hostage through personal stories and messages from around the world. Their interactive installation features books representing each hostage held in Gaza. Visitors are invited to write their own messages, read other messages of hope and support, or simply meander through the rows of brightly coloured books, each featuring a photo of a hostage on the cover.



OCTOBER 16, 2024
BRUSSELS, HUNGARIAN REPRESENTATION TO THE EU

EJC Executive Vice-President Raya Kalenova addressed an event in Brussels celebrating the approval of a European Council Declaration on Fostering Jewish Life and Combating Antisemitism, adopted under the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

"I extend my sincere thanks to the Hungarian Presidency for your tireless efforts in making this declaration a reality, especially at a time when antisemitism is rising globally, following the October 7th massacre. Since that terrible day, Jewish hatred has been unleashed in a violent and unrestricted manner all over the world," said Ms Kalenova who was invited to speak on behalf of European Jewish communities by Minister for European Union Affairs of Hungary János Bóka.

Hungarian Minister for European Affairs gave the welcoming remarks, highlighting that the fight against antisemitism "is a matter for Europe



as a whole, as without Jewish heritage, Europe won't be Europe anymore." He stated that adopting the declaration was "the right thing to do for the EU in order to stand against evil and hate," and emphasised that European Jews can count on the Hungarian government to stand against antisemitism and foster their traditions and culture.

NOVEMBER 4-5, 2024
BRUSSELS

EJC Director of European Affairs Ariella Woitchik participated in UNESCO and Wallonia-Brussels Federation training workshops, in collaboration with the OSCE/ODIHR, aimed at combating antisemitism and discrimination in educational environments in Belgium.

The workshops were held at the Study and Documentation Centre for War and Contemporary Society in Brussels. The training targeted educational staff, political actors, administrative officials, and civil society organizations. Its objective is to enhance the competencies of on-the-ground actors to respond effectively to antisemitic incidents.

NOVEMBER 14, 2024
BRUSSELS

The European Jewish Congress hosted an exclusive conference in Brussels featuring renowned French philosopher, author and film director Bernard-Henri Lévy, who presented his latest book, "Israel Alone", to a full audience.

Speaking as a direct witness to the horrors inflicted by Hamas on the Israeli people, Mr Lévy condemned the global apathy and indifference shown towards Israel—the Middle East's only democracy—as it struggles for survival and stands as a defender of freedom and Western values in the face of terror.

In "Israel Alone", Lévy passionately advocates for Israel's survival amid escalating global challenges. He delves into the ethical and philosophical foundations of Jewish culture, reflecting on the state of Israel and the Jewish community in today's world, where rising antisemitism is increasingly disguised as anti-Zionism.

The event was attended by Ambassadors, Members of the European Parliament and national parliaments, European Commission lawmakers, diplomatic officials, representatives of international organisations, and leaders of the Belgian Jewish community and Jewish organisations based in Brussels.

EJC Executive Vice-President Raya Kalenova gave the welcoming remarks, expressing her deep appreciation, and that of the organisation,

for the work of Bernard-Henri Lévy in standing against oppression for decades.

Member of the European Parliament Assita Kanko spoke afterwards, addressing the growing challenges she sees in Europe, particularly the rise of extremism and the increasing divide within our societies between those who stand with democracy and human rights and those who defend violence and authoritarianism.



NOVEMBER 19, 2024
BRUSSELS, EUROPEAN COMMISSION

EJC leadership, including EJC President Dr Ariel Muzicant and EJC Executive Vice-President Raya Kalenova, held meetings with the Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration, Magnus Brunner, who will oversee the fight against antisemitism and the fostering of Jewish life in the new mandate of the European Commission, to discuss matters of common concern.

NOVEMBER 27, 2024
ONLINE



The European Jewish Congress launched an innovative series of online educational videos as part of a European Union-funded project aimed at educating young people about the diversity of Jewish life, culture, and traditions, as well as raising awareness of the dangers of antisemitism, among other themes.

Entitled "Glad You Asked", the series of ten short cartoons specifically target young people on the social media platforms they used. The videos cover key aspects of Jewish identity, such as Shabbat and Jewish festivals, while also addressing issues like antisemitism, the Holocaust, and Jewish history.

The cartoons feature three young people asking and answering questions in a light-hearted yet serious manner, using animated settings in European cities, Jewish homes, synagogues, and other locations.

EJC Executive Vice President Raya Kalenova explained that it had become increasingly important to reach people whose principal access to information and news was no longer through traditional mainstream media.

"If we wanted to educate people about Jews and reduce ignorance and stereotypes, which often lie at the root of antisemitism, we needed to reach young people in formats relevant to their daily lives," Kalenova said. "It was a lot to convey in 90 seconds, but that's what most messaging required. This approach also aligned with a 2,000-year-old Jewish tradition that began when Hillel was challenged to explain Judaism to someone standing on one leg."

"These videos challenged young people's perceptions of Jews and Judaism in their own language, but they also challenged us as Jewish

organisations. We, too, needed to adapt and innovate our messaging to meet an audience that wasn't necessarily where we'd traditionally expect," Kalenova said.

This campaign formed part of the "BADRI – Bringing Awareness, Dialogue, and Resilience Improvement" project, funded by the European Union through the CERV programme.

DECEMBER 2, 2024
BRUSSELS

EJC Executive Vice-President Raya Kalenova was invited to the celebrations of Romanian National Day, commemorating the independence of the country.

During the event, Ms Kalenova met with Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs Luminița Odobescu.

DECEMBER 5, 2024
BRUSSELS, HUNGARIAN REPRESENTATION TO THE EU

The European Jewish Congress partnered with the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the EU, the European Commission, and the World Jewish Congress in organising the high-level security conference on protecting Jewish communities in Europe, titled 'Security and Resilience Challenges,' which took place at the Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU in Brussels.





The conference was dedicated to enhancing security efforts and raising awareness about the protection of Jewish communities in the European Union, focusing on best practices and effective strategies. Discussions explored the evolving security landscape, the impact of global terrorism, and the tools needed to protect vulnerable communities.

Diplomatic representatives from permanent representations to the European Union, bilateral diplomats, security experts, law enforcement officials, European lawmakers, and religious and community leaders came together to discuss common challenges and share their knowledge in the fields of security, crisis management, and preventive action against terrorist attacks.

EJC Executive Vice-President Raya Kalenova delivered the welcoming remarks at the conference, alongside the Permanent Representative of Hungary to the EU, Balint Ódor, European Commission Coordinator on Combating Antisemitism, Katharina von Schnurbein, WJC Executive Vice-President Maram Stern, and MASZIHISZ President Dr Andor Grósz.

Participants had the opportunity to hear from a diverse array of speakers with long-standing experience, including Dr Péter Sztáray, Hungarian State Secretary for Security Policy and Energy Security at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Bartjan Wegter, EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, and Julien Mousnier, Director for Rule of Law, Fundamental Rights and Democracy at DG JUST, among others.

SACC by EJC CEO Ophir Revach presented a session on crisis management and moderated one on challenges and best practices following the October 7th terrorist attacks.

DECEMBER 12, 2024 PARIS

The European Jewish Congress held its Executive Committee meeting on 10 December in Paris, France, where leaders of Jewish communities gathered to discuss recent developments, exchange best practices and address challenges ahead amid the rising antisemitism after the October 7th massacre.

The meeting was held in cooperation with the EJC's French affiliate, Representative Council of French Jewish Institutions (CRIF), headed by Yonathan Arfi.



Members of the Executive discussed the ongoing challenges faced by Europe's Jewish communities, including efforts to enhance their protection in the current context. They also addressed the developments in the European Union following the 2024 elections, the formation of a new college of commissioners, and the composition of the European Parliament.

Additionally, they reviewed recent updates from local Jewish communities throughout the continent, reflecting on their responses to rising antisemitism and the challenges they face. The discussion also included strategic plans for 2025, with a focus on strengthening advocacy, enhancing security measures, supporting community engagement, and fostering greater cooperation with European institutions to safeguard Jewish life and culture.

Participants had the opportunity to exchange views with French Minister Delegate for European Affairs, Benjamin Haddad, who presented France's efforts in the fight against antisemitism, the promotion of Jewish life and culture, and the need to safeguard Jewish communities across Europe. He engaged in a meaningful dialogue with the leaders of European Jewish communities.

DECEMBER 12, 2024
PARIS, UNESCO HEADQUARTERS



The European Jewish Congress partnered with UNESCO, the European Commission, and the OSCE in organising a high-level education conference titled Addressing Antisemitism through Education in Europe: From Practice to Action, which took place at UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

The conference was dedicated to enhancing efforts in the fight against antisemitism in European schools, raising awareness of the need to train teachers and students on the dangers of Jewish hatred, ensuring the safety and wellbeing of Jewish students, and strengthening education on the diversity of Jewish life, culture, and traditions.

The conference brought together diplomats, Ministry of Education representatives, policymakers, educators, and representatives of Jewish communities throughout the continent that attended the meeting after their participation in the EJC Executive Committee meeting.

This policy dialogue marked the conclusion of the Addressing Antisemitism through Education in Europe UNESCO project, conducted in partnership with the OSCE and funded by the European Commission

across 12 member states. The project involved teachers, educators, and public officials, highlighting the importance of addressing antisemitism within educational environments.

EJC President Dr. Ariel Muzicant delivered the opening address following the welcoming remarks by UNESCO Assistant Director-General Stefania Giannini.

In his speech, Dr Muzicant emphasised the urgent need to address rising antisemitism in schools and universities across Europe, as Jewish students increasingly feel afraid to attend classes due to the fear of harassment and attacks. He highlighted that the rise in antisemitism affects not only European Jews but society as a whole.

Dr Muzicant stressed the importance of moving from words to action and ensuring that the history of the Holocaust and the Jewish people is included in school curricula across the continent.

JANUARY 16, 2025
BRUSSELS

At an event organised by the European Jewish Congress in Brussels, Members of the European Parliament, prominent Belgian politicians, ambassadors and diplomatic representatives, senior EU officials, and leaders of the Jewish community gathered to mark the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and honour the memory of the victims of the Shoah amid rising antisemitism in Europe.

On this solemn occasion, participants attended an exclusive screening of the animated film *The Most Precious of Cargoes*, a poignant adaptation of Jean-Claude Grumberg's novel, directed by Academy Award winner Michel Hazanavicius, which was selected to compete for the Palme d'Or at the 77th Cannes Film Festival.

The film, which tells a powerful story of humanity amidst the atrocities of the Holocaust, was introduced to the audience by its producer, Patrick Sobelman, who shared insights about its development.

EJC Executive Vice-President Raya Kalenova welcomed the guests and said: "80 years after the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the world's Jewish population has still not reached the numbers of 1939. But against all odds, we have survived. We are the living testament to the memory of the victims, their stories, and the unbroken spirit of a people who refused to surrender to despair, who turned death into life and suffering into love."



NON



Afterwards, participants had the privilege of watching a European Jewish Congress-produced film about the Jewish artist Felix Nussbaum, who lived in Brussels under Nazi occupation and was deported and murdered in Auschwitz-Birkenau. This film was narrated by hidden child Baron Julien Klener, who shared an emotional testimony as a survivor of the Holocaust.

Following Mr Klener's impactful words, Minister of Education and Social Welfare and Vice-President of the Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, Valérie Glatigny, addressed the public, saying: "Educating our children about the Holocaust is not merely about teaching a history lesson. It is about showing them what hatred and indifference can destroy and equipping them with the tools to build a society founded on respect for human dignity."

The European Commission Coordinator on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life, Katharina von Schnurbein, stressed: "Eighty years after the Holocaust, we find ourselves facing the highest levels of antisemitism since its end, alongside the dangerous rise of Holocaust distortion and trivialisation. This genocide is a defining legacy of the European Union, and no conflict can serve as an excuse to distort our shared history or minimise its horrors."

The ceremony concluded with a minute of silence honouring the memory of the six million Jews murdered during the Shoah.

JANUARY 22, 2025 BRUSSELS

The European Jewish Congress (EJC) partnered with the European Commission and the Polish Presidency of the Council of the EU in organising the Holocaust Remembrance Conference, "Remembering the Past, Shaping the Future", which took place in Brussels on 21 January 2025, on the occasion of International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

EJC Executive Vice-President Raya Kalenova spoke on behalf of European Jewish communities and stated that, 80 years after the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, "despite the Nazis' attempt to erase Jewish life from history, we are still here. European Jewish communities, though diminished, remain resilient and determined to preserve their heritage and identity for future generations."

"In this time of fear, we must be clear: combating antisemitism and preserving the memory of the Shoah is about upholding the values of our societies and protecting our democracies and freedoms. We must all guarantee that this generation of European Jews is not the last one on this continent," expressed Ms Kalenova.

European Commission Coordinator on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life, Katharina von Schnurbein gave the welcoming remarks, emphasising her dedication to fighting Holocaust denial, honouring the victims, and combating any form of antisemitism in Europe.

Afterwards, Polish Secretary of State Władysław Teofil Bartoszewski highlighted Poland's responsibility to protect the memory of the more than 3 million Polish Jews killed by the Nazis and the necessity to fight anti-Jewish hatred in modern Europe.

European Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration, Magnus Brunner, whose portfolio includes the fight against antisemitism, highlighted the European Union's commitment to safeguarding Jewish communities in a video message.

Participants had the opportunity to hear testimony from Holocaust survivor, the Hon Mala Tribich MBE, who survived the camps of Ravensbrück and Bergen-Belsen.



Members of the Network of Young European Ambassadors for Holocaust Remembrance shared emotional stories related to the Holocaust in their home countries.

The event concluded with a commemoration ceremony led by Rabbi Olivier Kaufman, followed by the lighting of candles in memory of the victims of the Shoah

JANUARY 26, 2025
KRAKOW, TEMPLE SYNAGOGUE



The European Jewish Congress co-organised with Peace People Planet the “Symphony for Life” concert at the Temple Synagogue in Krakow, marking the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp.

This unique event breathed life back into the Choral synagogue and featured performances by renowned musicians and artists from France, Israel, and the United States, honouring the memory of the victims of the Shoah and symbolically restoring the voices silenced by barbarity.



EJC Executive Vice-President Raya Kalenova addressed the hundreds of participants at the event, which included distinguished policymakers, diplomats, leaders of Jewish communities from across the world, and Holocaust survivors, emphasising the need for the stories of the millions murdered under the Nazi regime to continue to be told for generations to come.

“As we stand here, let us reflect on the resilience of our people. For despite the darkness, we rebuilt. Despite the pain, we persevered. And despite the hatred, we brought light back into the world. We carried the weight of memory forward, not as a burden, but as a torch—lighting the path towards a world where ‘never again’ is not just a phrase but a promise,” said Ms Kalenova.

Participants had the privilege of hearing France’s most famous singer, composer, and actor, Patrick Bruel, who performed his song “The Empty Chairs” in tribute to all those who



have lost a loved one since 7th October. He was accompanied by Israeli violinist virtuoso Michael Shaham, who also performed several pieces on one of the “Violins of Hope” that resonates in Auschwitz, adorned with six-sided stars that were added by the original violin makers.

The women’s choir “Voix de Stras” sang a series of lullabies in tribute to the lost children of the Holocaust, and legendary voice and multiple award-winning singer Liz McComb, a descendant of Black American slaves, performed several emotional pieces. All the artists came together for a final moving performance of “Imagine” by John Lennon. The evening was narrated by writer and film director Amanda Sthers.

JANUARY 27, 2025
POLAND, AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU

EJC President Ariel Muzicant, alongside EJC Executive Vice President Raya Kalenova and EJC Director of European Affairs Ariella Woitchik, took part in the World Jewish Congress delegation to mark the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration and death camp.

World Jewish Congress President Ronald S Lauder delivered a poignant and emotional speech, emphasising the enduring relevance of the Holocaust’s lessons.

Tova Friedman, an Auschwitz survivor, gave a powerful address recounting her terrifying experiences as a Jewish child hiding from the Nazis and her miraculous survival. She reflected on the resilience of the Jewish people since the Holocaust.

The EJC delegation also participated in the #WeRemember campaign for International Holocaust Remembrance Day.



FEBRUARY 18, 2025
MUNICH



European Jewish Congress President Dr Ariel Muzicant took part in the Munich Security Conference 2025, the world’s leading forum for debating the most pressing challenges to international security. During the event, he engaged in numerous



discussions with high-level decision-makers and stakeholders from across the globe.

Dr Muzicant met with European Council President António Costa to address the alarming rise of antisemitism and radicalisation across the continent, and the need to strengthen EU Member States' strategies to combat Jewish hatred while fostering Jewish life and culture. They emphasised the need for stronger cooperation between EU institutions, EU member states, and Jewish communities to tackle the present challenges. He highlighted the threat posed by far-right and far-left extremism, as well as the dangers stemming from Iran and its proxies to European democracies.

In his meeting with MEP Manfred Weber, President of the European People's Party, the largest political group in the European Parliament, he conveyed the concerns of European Jewish communities in the current climate and the challenges facing Jewish citizens across the continent. They discussed the responsibility of MEPs, particularly those from the EPP, in securing Jewish life and culture and underscored the European Parliament's crucial role in strengthening democracy in Europe amid the concerning rise of political extremes.

Dr Muzicant also met with European Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration Magnus Brunner, under whose portfolio falls the fight against antisemitism. They discussed the importance of the EU in safeguarding Jewish life, the need for better implementation of the EU strategy against antisemitism and the national strategies of Member States, as well as the relevance of the IHRA working definition of

antisemitism. Strengthening cooperation between the EU and the EJC was also a key point of discussion as well as the need to reinforce the office of the European Commission Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life.

During his meeting with Romanian Foreign Minister Emil Hurezeanu, Dr Muzicant expressed his appreciation for Romania's role in combating antisemitism, fostering Jewish life, and supporting Israel in its fight against the terrorist organisation Hamas. They also discussed the troubling rise of political extremism in Europe, including in Romania, and the importance of reinforcing European and democratic values in these challenging times.

He also met with Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar to discuss the political situation in Europe and the need to strengthen and solidify relations between the Israeli government and Jewish communities in Europe. They explored ways to enhance cooperation on issues of security, cultural exchange, and community resilience, ensuring that Jewish life in Europe remains vibrant and well-protected amid growing challenges.

In addition, he held discussions with UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay, International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Rafael Grossi, French Minister Delegate for European Affairs Benjamin Haddad, former Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer, Israeli Ambassador to Germany Ron Prosor, former Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, former United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal, and former Vice-President of the European Parliament Othmar Karas.

Dr Muzicant also met with leaders of Jewish organisations, including World Jewish Congress President Ronald Lauder, AJC CEO Ted Deutch, Conference of European Rabbis President Pinchas Goldschmidt, and Munich Jewish Community President Charlotte Knobloch, among others.

Additionally, he met with families of Israeli hostages held in Gaza, expressing his support for their efforts to secure the immediate release of their loved ones from the grip of the terrorist organisation Hamas.

FEBRUARY 20, 2025
BRUSSELS, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



The European Jewish Congress, acting as its Secretariat and a member of its Advisory Board, took part in the constituent meeting of the Working Group against Antisemitism (WGAS), an informal cross-party working group of Members of the European Parliament, where the agenda and priorities for the next legislative term were discussed.

All MEPs present expressed their utmost condemnation of the murder of the Bibas family by the terrorist organisation Hamas, demanding the immediate and unconditional release of the remaining hostages still held in Gaza. The brutal sadism exercised against Israeli civilians, especially against a toddler and a 4 year old boy, showcases the sheer inhumanity of Hamas's actions and underscores the urgent need for the international community to take decisive action against such barbarism.



During the meeting, MEP Alice Teodorescu Măwe (EPP/Sweden) was elected as WGAS chair. Her unwavering commitment to combating antisemitism and ensuring the

safety and well-being of Jewish communities across Europe in these challenging times was acknowledged by the WGAS members.

"I am honoured by the trust placed in me and eagerly anticipate leading our collaborative efforts to combat antisemitism across Europe. The strength of this cross-party working group lies in its unity, proving that the fight against antisemitism transcends political divides. Our work is more important than ever, as we witness an alarming surge in antisemitism across Europe. We must send a clear and united message: Europe will not be complicit in hatred. In my first statement as Chair, I will condemn in the strongest possible terms the barbaric fate of the Bibas family. There are no words to fully capture this evil. I vow to do everything in my power to combat not only the hatred itself but also the silence and denial surrounding these crimes—the worst pogrom since the Holocaust," said Ms Alice Teodorescu Măwe, the new WGAS Chair.

"I am confident the working group will positively contribute to a deeper and broader understanding of the IHRA definition of antisemitism

and will therefore fight antisemitism in all its forms. The recent brutal killing of the Bibas family by Hamas shows once again the cruel and inhumane behaviour of Hamas terrorists," expressed WGAS Vice-Chair MEP Lukas Mandl (EPP/Austria).

MEP Sabrina Repp (S&D/Germany), who joined the WGAS as a new member, stressed the group's crucial role in combating antisemitism across Europe: "Antisemitism is an attack on our core European values of dignity, equality and freedom. As political decision-makers, we must not only condemn any form of misanthropy, but take concrete steps to combat antisemitism in all its forms. I am committed to ensuring that Jewish communities across Europe feel safe and protected and that our societies remain united against intolerance and hatred."

In the face of the tsunami of antisemitism both online and offline in Europe after the brutal Hamas attack on October 7th, the role of the WGAS is fundamental in raising awareness about the threat of Jewish hatred to European democracies and values.

The European Jewish Congress (EJC) and B'nai B'rith International serve as WGAS Advisory Board Members and the EJC as its Secretariat.

FEBRUARY 25, 2025
BRUSSELS

European Jewish Congress Executive Vice-President Raya Kalenova and Director of European Affairs Ariella Woitchik participated in a meeting organised by the Mission of Israel to the EU and NATO and the Embassy of Israel to Belgium and Luxembourg with Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar.

During the meeting, Ms Kalenova conveyed the concerns of European Jewish communities and expressed their full solidarity with the State of Israel in these challenging times.



MARCH 5, 2025
BRUSSELS, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



The European Jewish Congress, together with the Working Group Against Antisemitism (WGAS), for which the EJC serves as secretariat and member of the advisory board, and the EPP Group in the European Parliament, organised the high-level conference “European Democracies at a Crossroads: Battling Extremism, Islamist Terrorism, and Antisemitism” in the European Parliament in Brussels.

Hosted by WGAS Vice-Chair MEP Lukas Mandl, the event aimed to raise awareness about the surge of political extremes, Islamism, and the growing hatred against Jews in Europe. It also provided an opportunity to discuss the mounting challenges faced by Member States in combating hate, intolerance, and divisive rhetoric in their societies, as well as the tools to tackle these scourges in order to safeguard our democracies and preserve our freedoms.

In his opening remarks, MEP Lukas Mandl highlighted that this was the first event of the Working Group Against Antisemitism (WGAS) in the new mandate. He emphasised that it comes at a time when European values are under threat from radical ideologies, leading to a rise in antisemitism across the continent. He stressed the political obligation of national governments and elected officials to combat hate and discrimination with zero tolerance, emphasising the need to confront these challenges within our societies, as they threaten the very foundation of our European identity.

The conference continued with a panel discussion moderated by EJC Director of European Affairs, Ariella Woitchik, featuring the President of the Conference of Imams of France and Imam of the Drancy Mosque, Hassen Chalghoumi; City Council Member of Rosny-sous-Bois in charge of promoting laïcité and combating discrimination, Shannon Seban; and Belgian Senator and Secretary-General of the Jonathas Institute, Viviane Teitelbaum.



Imam Chalghoumi highlighted his concern that the war against Hamas is influencing the minds of European youth, as hatred has multiplied both online and offline, being exploited by extremist groups such as the Muslim Brotherhood. These groups are taking advantage of the conflict to win over public opinion on the continent. He stated that Europe and humanity were not up to the task after the 7th of October massacre, as a silent majority remained idle despite witnessing the atrocity. He emphasised that his priority is to ensure peaceful coexistence and combat Islamism to preserve social peace and democracy. He also stressed the fundamental role of education, not only in schools but also within families.

For her part, City Council Member Shannon Seban explained the situation in France, where the rise of extremism and fundamentalism has led to a concerning increase in antisemitism, often disguised under the mantle of “anti-Zionism.” She outlined her work in her constituency, highlighting the challenges and opportunities present within its diverse demographic, and emphasised the importance of interfaith dialogue and education to combat discrimination and violence in French society.

Senator Teitelbaum expressed her concerns about the growing polarisation and division within European societies, particularly in Belgium. She highlighted the surge in antisemitism in the country, which has instilled fear and anxiety within the Belgian Jewish community, exacerbated by the indifference of national authorities towards the increasing influence of fundamentalism and Islamist ideology. She pointed out that some political parties in Belgium exploit the situation

in the Middle East to further their agendas, while the rising Islamisation poses a direct threat to European values and freedoms, undermining the very fabric of society.

In her closing remarks, European Commission Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life, Katharina von Schnurbein, highlighted the role of the Working Group Against Antisemitism (WGAS) and expressed her gratitude at being part of its first event, hoping for continued progress in the next mandate.

She stated that since the 7th of October, the rise in antisemitism has become increasingly concerning, with new and dangerous forms of radicalisation emerging. She emphasised that while significant progress had been made with 24 EU countries adopting strategies, more action is needed, particularly in online legislation and efforts to combat radicalisation, to prevent further harm to Jewish communities and society at large.

MARCH 18, 2025
BRUSSELS, EUJS OFFICE



EJC Head of Projects and Diplomatic Affairs Maria Bagdasarova, Communications Manager Xavier Ruiz Trullols and Policy Officer Dylan Bokler delivered a presentation about the work of the European Jewish Congress representing European Jewish communities at the EU Activism Seminar 2025, organised by the European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS).

The EU Activism Seminar is a flagship initiative designed to introduce young Jewish activists to the workings of EU institutions and the advocacy efforts of Jewish civil society organisations.

This marked the tenth occasion on which an EUJS delegation engaged in dialogue with the EJC, underscoring the strong partnership, enduring friendship, and shared commitment of both organisations in service of Jewish communities across Europe.

MARCH 25, 2025
VIENNA

Former Chancellor Karl Nehammer received a special award from the European Jewish Congress, Keren Hayesod and the Jewish Community of Vienna (IKG).



He was presented with a "Shofar" by Ariel Muzicant, the President of the European Jewish Congress, in recognition of his unwavering support for the Jewish community and his steadfast commitment to the defence of the State of Israel.

Muzicant praised Nehammer's leadership, saying, "Karl Nehammer has shown exceptional dedication not only to Austria's Jewish community but also to the broader cause of peace and security for Israel. His advocacy for the Jewish people, especially in the face of rising antisemitism, has been an inspiration to us all."

APRIL 2, 2025
BRUSSELS

A European Jewish Congress delegation participated in the Civil Society Forum on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life organised by the European Commission in Brussels.



The event brought together over 250 European and international Jewish and non-Jewish organisations, as well as experts and activists from across Europe and beyond, to join efforts and work towards new concrete actions in the fight against antisemitism in the EU.

EJC Director of European Affairs Ariella Woitchik spoke at the first plenary session of the forum, titled "Jewish Life in Europe Since 7 October 2023," alongside CRIF President Yonathan Arfi, Institute for Jewish Policy Research Executive Director Jonathan Boyd, and former President of the German Union of Jewish Students Hannah Veiler.

During her address, she discussed the normalisation of antisemitism in civil society and the growing isolation felt by Jewish communities after

the Hamas massacre of 7 October, underlining the need to translate strategies and declarations into concrete actions and to tackle the prejudices that are deeply rooted in European societies.

She also highlighted that key priorities should include strengthening education among younger generations, improving judicial responses to antisemitic hate crimes, and tackling the spread of antisemitism online.

EJC Head of Projects and Diplomatic Affairs Maria Bagdasarova, Policy Officer Dylan Bokler, and SACC by EJC Head of Crisis Management Elie Kagan were part of the EJC delegation to the Civil Society Forum, where they actively participated and engaged in meaningful exchanges across the various breakout rooms and sessions, presenting the work of the organisation and strengthening cooperation with a diverse set of stakeholders.

The Civil Society Forum on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish life is a flagship action of the EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life (2021-2030).

APRIL 10, 2025
BRUSSELS



The European Jewish Congress, in partnership with SACC by EJC and Faith Matters, organised the “Resilient Communities: Improving Interfaith Cooperation and Fostering Best Practices” conference in Brussels, Belgium.



The event, funded by the European Union through the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV) as part of the “BADRI – Bringing Awareness, Dialogue and Resilience Improvement” project, brought together European Commission officials, Members of the European Parliament, diplomats, community leaders, interfaith experts, legal professionals, and representatives from various faith-based organisations.

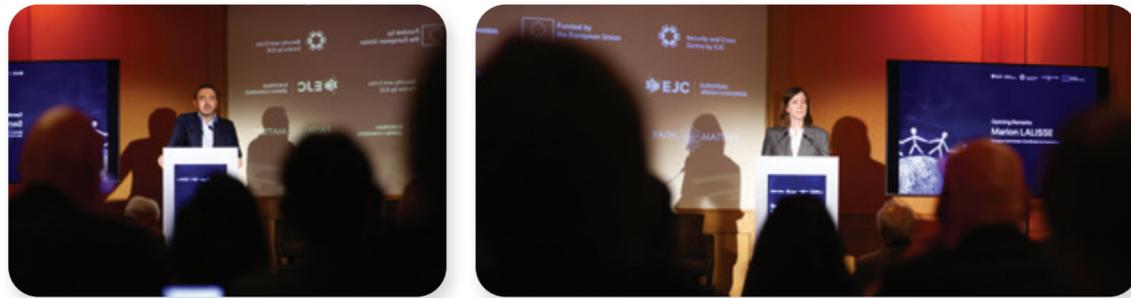
The conference provided a unique opportunity to address the shared challenges faced by faith-based communities, particularly Jewish and Muslim communities, and to explore collaborative solutions. The focus was on judicial responses to hate crimes, dismantling stereotypes and biases against faith-based communities, and examining the impact of prejudice and discrimination, all while incorporating a gender perspective.

The event included plenary sessions, panels, and breakout discussions that fostered coalition-building, knowledge exchange, and strategy development. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to interfaith cooperation, combating faith-based discrimination, and promoting inclusive communities by signing a series of commitments to turn dialogue into lasting action.

EJC Executive Vice-President Raya Kalenova gave the welcoming remarks, highlighting the organisation’s commitment to strengthen interfaith dialogue during these challenging times while thanking the support of the European Commission to make this conference possible.

Opening remarks were delivered by the European Commission Coordinator on Anti-Muslim Hatred, Marion Lalisse; Member of the European Parliament and Vice-Chair of the Working Group Against Antisemitism, Sergey Lagodinsky; and Policy Officer at the Office of the European Commission’s Coordinator on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life, Pascale Falek.

The keynote speech was delivered by Chief Superintendent and Strategic Advisor of Brussels Capital Ixelles Police, Saad Amrani, who provided an overview of the current situation in Belgium and Europe regarding radicalisation, cooperation among faith-based communities,



and the main threats and challenges faced today, based on his authorised perspective as a member of a law enforcement agency.

The first plenary session, Current Challenges of Faith-Based Communities: Experiences and Responses, featured Gabrielle Piorka, Co-Chair of the Union of Belgian Jewish Students (UEJB); Jonny Newton, Director of External Relations at the Community Security Trust (CST); and Iman Abou Atta, Director of Faith Matters and Tell MAMA

The second plenary session, titled Best Practices of Interfaith Cooperation: Strategies for Fostering Solidarity and Combating Discrimination, included City Council Member of Rosny-sous-Bois, responsible for promoting “Laïcité” and combating discrimination, Shannon Seban; EADM President and ISGAP Researcher, Manel Msalmi; and Dialogue Perspectives Expert on Digital Resilience and Online Harms, Benjamin Fischer. Additionally, SACC by EJC Head of Crisis Management and Iman Abou Atta presented Community-Based Security Initiatives and Cooperation with Law Enforcement and the Judiciary: The Example of the SASCE Project.

During the first breakout session, Understanding and Dismantling Stereotypes and Biases, EJC Director of European Affairs, Ariella Woitchik, presented the Glad You Asked Jewish educational cartoons to the audience, while Beatrice Kricheli and Jennyfer Scheer presented the LIKRAT Initiative. Both projects form part of the EU-funded BADRI project. At the same time, participants heard from CEJI Training Director, Stephanie Lecesne, and House of One Head of Communications and Spokesperson, Kerstin Krupp.

In the second breakout session, Focus on Judicial Response: Fighting Radicalisation in Faith-Based Communities, participants heard from Fiyaz Mughal, Founder of Faith Matters/Tell MAMA; Grischa Stanjek, Co-Founder of democ; and Elie Kagan, Head of Crisis Management at SACC by EJC.

In the third plenary session, participants reflected on the breakout sessions, emphasising the open dialogue, fruitful discussions, and commitment to ongoing collaboration, symbolised by the signing of the conference commitments to drive lasting change in interfaith understanding and the fight against discrimination.

The closing remarks were delivered by the European Commission Coordinator for the Dialogue with Churches, Religious, Philosophical and Non-Confessional Organisations, Vincent Depaigne.

APRIL 10, 2025 BRUSSELS

European Jewish Congress Executive Vice-President Raya Kalenova gave closing remarks at the 55th anniversary of the Coordinating Committee of Belgian Jewish Organisations (CCOJB).

In her speech, she praised the remarkable work carried out by the CCOJB under the leadership of its President, Yves Oschinsky. She expressed her gratitude to the political representatives who delivered powerful messages in support of



the Jewish community and welcomed the commitments made during the evening as a sign of hope for a new era for Belgian Jewish citizens. She particularly thanked the President of the Mouvement Réformateur, Georges-Louis Bouchez, for his moral clarity and longstanding support, especially during recent times when Belgian Jews felt particularly isolated.

Distinguished speakers addressed the audience at the dinner, including CCOJB President Yves Oschinsky, who clearly articulated the concerns of the Jewish community in Belgium and emphasised the urgent need for a permanent coordinator to develop a national strategy to combat antisemitism, in line with European requirements.

National representatives congratulated the CCOJB and reaffirmed their commitment to combating antisemitism and safeguarding the Belgian Jewish community. Among those who spoke were Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever, Mouvement Réformateur President Georges-Louis Bouchez, DéFI President Sophie Rohonyi, Belgian Minister for Mobility Jean-Luc Crucke, Belgian comedian Sam Touzani, and many others.

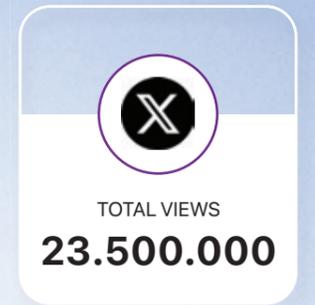
APRIL 23, 2025
BRUSSELS



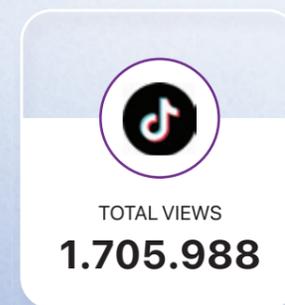
EJC Executive Vice-President Raya Kalenova and Director of European Affairs Ariella Woitchik held a meeting with Chair of the Working Group Against Antisemitism (WGAS) MEP Alice Teodorescu Måwe (Sweden/EPP).

They discussed matters of common concern, ongoing cooperation during the current parliamentary mandate, and strategies for strengthening collaboration moving forward.

The meeting reaffirmed their shared commitment to strengthening efforts against antisemitism across Europe amid its alarming rise and normalisation in wider society.



GLAD YOU ASKED!





EPISODE 1
DIVERSITY



EPISODE 2
SHABBAT



EPISODE 7
PURIM



EPISODE 8
ANTISEMITISM



EPISODE 3
JEWISH WEDDING



EPISODE 4
HANUKKAH



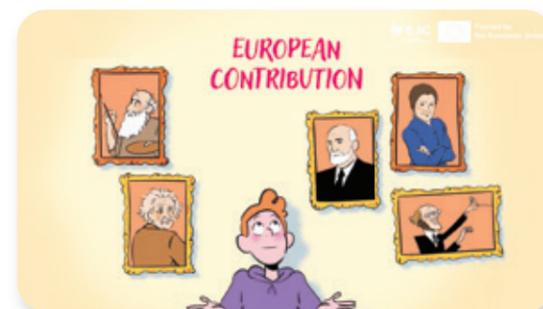
EPISODE 9
PASSOVER



EPISODE 10
ISRAEL



EPISODE 5
SHOAH

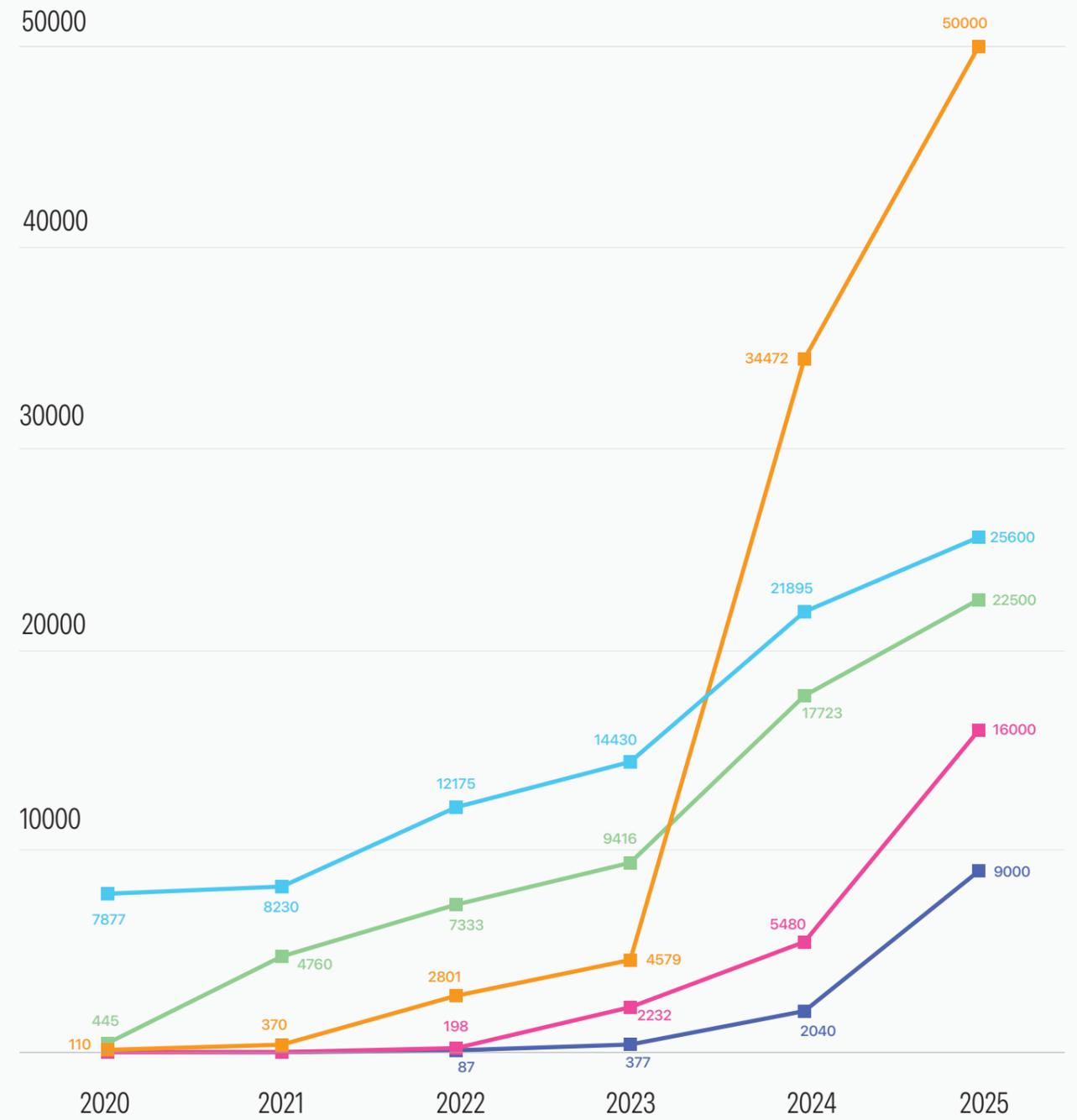
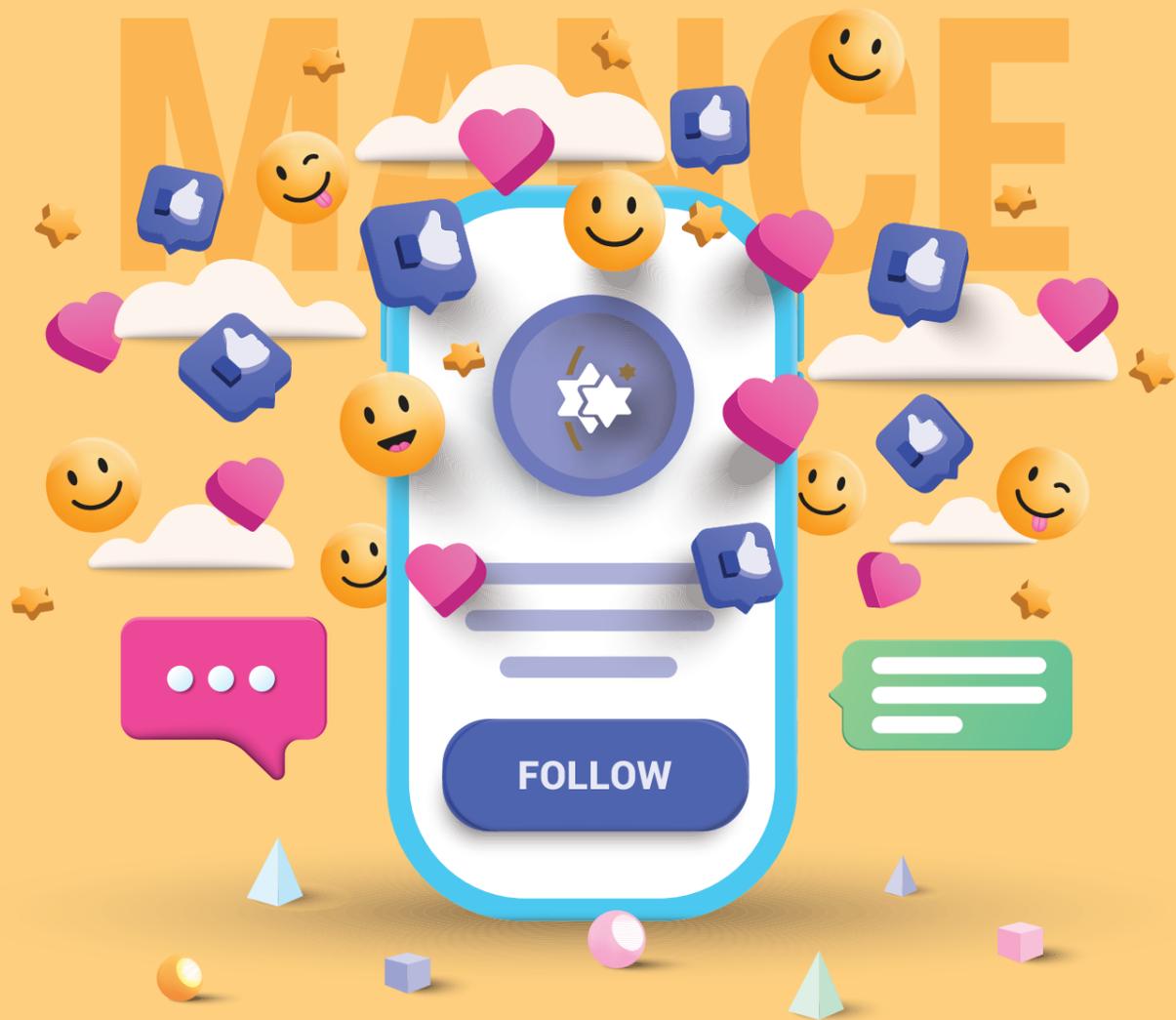


EPISODE 6
JEWISH CONTRIBUTIONS

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SOCIAL MEDIA PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS







EUROPEAN JEWISH CONGRESS

T: +32 2 540 8159

info@ejcbrussels.com

www.eurojewcong.org



@eurojewcong



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