



EUROPEAN JEWISH CONGRESS

Activities report

September 2017 - May 2018



London | September 13, 2017

Executive Meeting

The EJC Executive Committee discussed about issues of concern and interest for the Jewish community:

- Strategy for the adoption of the European Parliament (EP) Resolution on combating antisemitism;
- The assault on religious rights and freedoms;
- Reports on France, Hungary and UK;
- Problematic situation in Poland regarding the controversial Holocaust bill;



Annual meeting of community directors

Brussels | November 10, 2017



The EJC gathered 25 presidents, directors, officials, experts, and discussed about:

- The role of communities in the adoption of the European Parliament Resolution on combating antisemitism;
- The role community leaders can play in responding to security challenges;
- The OSCE Practical Guide on Antisemitism.

Participants attended a session of the EP Working Group on antisemitism and had the occasion to meet with several MEPs during an informal dinner.







Brussels | November 15, 2017
European Parliament

European Report

*Antisemitism in Europe today:
is it still a threat to free and
open society?*

EJC participated in the European Report, a political programme from inside the European Parliament which addresses issues concerning Europe and the Middle East.



Paris | November 21, 2017

Meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron

An EJC delegation led by Moshe Kantor, met with French President Emmanuel Macron. The delegation included Francis Kalifat, President of the CRIF, and Raya Kalenova, EJC Executive Vice-President and CEO.

During the meeting, the delegation told President Macron that the EJC unanimously opposes any meetings or dealings with far-right and far-left political parties in Europe.

Moshe Kantor also called on the President to adopt the working definition of antisemitism.







Seminar: The Holocaust and Extremism - have we really learnt from the past?

Organised by Comenius University, the seminar brought together academics and professionals. EJC was represented by Public Affairs Officer Benny Fischer. Among topics discussed were the history of the Holocaust in Slovakia and Europe, reasons for the radicalisation of European society, and legal possibilities for combating extremism.

The importance of the topic was underlined by the presence of the President of the Slovak Republic, Andrej Kiska: “The reason why we should talk about the Holocaust and remind people of it is that we should never allow such a fate to become the future of our children.”



Brussels | December 8, 2017
European Parliament

Conference on new antisemitism

Raya Kalenova, EJC Executive Vice-President took part in a conference on **anti-Zionism as a new form of antisemitism** at the European Parliament hosted by MEPs Peter Niedermüller (S&D/Hungary), Fulvio Martusciello (EPP/Italy) and Heinz K. Becker (EPP/Austria).



Brussels | December 14, 2017

Meeting with Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven

Following the wave of antisemitic attacks in Sweden, the EJC met with Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven at its headquarters in Brussels.

During the meeting Raya Kalenova welcomed the Swedish government's quick and decisive response, and in particular, noted the Prime Minister's unconditional denunciation of the attacks and statement in support of the Jewish community.

Prime Minister Löfven stated: "Antisemitism is a poison in our society. It is a priority to fight it. We will not stop at reinforcing security; we must also denounce those who seek to justify violence under any pretense."







Raya Kalenova also stated that while some are trying to blame the US administration or the Israeli government for these attacks on Europe's Jewish communities, this should be absolutely rejected. Victim blaming is unacceptable in any context.

The EJC leadership, including Yohan Benizri, President of the Belgian Federation of Jewish Organizations (CCOJB), called on the Prime Minister to specifically address the pressing need for additional police resources, and to increase focus on democratic values in education for all sectors of the population, including migrant and refugee communities.



Brussels | January 23, 2018

EJC hosts Knesset delegation led by Speaker Yuli-Yoel Edelstein





Brussels | January 24, 2018
European Parliament

INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION DAY CEREMONY









Mairead McGuinness
Vice-President of the European Parliament



Yuli-Yoel Edelstein
Speaker of the Knesset





Brussels | January 24, 2018

EJC and European Commission host screening of film NANA

NANA is a feature-length documentary dealing with the important issue of transmitting the memory of the Shoah to the next generation.

Raya Kalenova and Katharina von Schnurbein opened the evening and welcomed all participants.

The movie was followed by a panel discussion with: Frans Timmermans, FVP of the European Commission, historian Prof. Simon Schama, and producer and director of the film Serena Dykman. The discussion was moderated by Gillian Merron, Chief Executive of BoD.





Rome | January 29, 2018

OSCE Conference

‘Responsibility of States Institutions and individuals in the fight against antisemitism in the OSCE Area’

Moshe Kantor addressed the International Conference and met with Italian Foreign Affairs Minister Angelino Alfano.

The Conference was held on the 80th Anniversary of the racial laws that were promulgated in Italy in 1938, and ahead of Italy assuming the Presidency of IHRA.

The Conference was held in cooperation with the Office for Democratic and Human Rights (ODIHR), the Center for Contemporary Jewish Documentation (CDEC) and the Union of Italian Jewish Communities (UCEI).









Dr Moshe Kantor, presents the Jerusalem Navigator award to the Italian Foreign Minister **Angelino Alfano** for “fighting against all forms of antisemitism, including anti-Zionism, which represents the most hateful and creeping form of antisemitism.”





Dr Moshe Kantor presents the Golden Vision award to **Ambassador Ronald Lauder** “devoting his life to the flourishing of Judaism, helping Jews reconnect with their roots and helping rebuild Jewish communities across the world.



Vienna | February 19 - 22, 2018

An End to Antisemitism!

Conference co-organised
by the EJC, Vienna
University, Tel Aviv
University and New York
University.







The Conference **‘An End to Antisemitism!’** was an unprecedented event that brought together over 150 speakers from North America, Israel and Latin America, Australia and various European countries. The Opening of the Conference was held in Vienna’s City Hall and was opened by Heinz Engle, Rector of the University of Vienna, French philosopher Bernard-Henri Lévy and Dr. Moshe Kantor, co-organiser of the event.

Raya Kalenova addressed the conference during the leadership talk session alongside **Nathan Sharansky**, Chairman of the Jewish Agency, and **Katharina von Schnurbein**, European Commission Coordinator on combating antisemitism.



Brussels | February 27, 2018
European Parliament

Combating BDS

MEPs and Experts debate role of culture and education in combating the BDS movement

The European Parliament Working Group on Antisemitism organised a conference on 'Culture and Education: bridges, not boycotts'. MEPs from all major political groups, experts, researchers and students discussed the need to understand the roots of BDS and develop better ways to fight it.





Jerusalem | March 21, 2018

Global Forum for Combating Antisemitism (GFCA) 2018



Raya Kalenova took part in a panel titled 'The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) and the working definition of antisemitism' – expanding the adoption and utilisation of an important policy tool.



Jerusalem | March 22, 2018



**EJC delegation and MEP
Heinz K. Becker, Chair of the
EP Working Group on
Antisemitism, visit Israel**



Brussels | March 28, 2018

EJC remembers Mireille Knoll

Ceremony in front of the French Embassy in Brussels



Tel Aviv | April 11, 2018

Kantor Center Report on Antisemitism Worldwide

The 2017 Annual Report on Antisemitism Worldwide was released during a press conference held on 11 April 2018 by the Kantor Center for Study of Contemporary European Jewry at Tel Aviv University in cooperation with the European Jewish Congress.





STATEMENT by the United States Bi-Partisan Taskforce for Combating Antisemitism on the findings of the Kantor Center Report

*“We are gravely concerned by the staggering increase in anti-Semitism across Europe as documented in the recent report by the **Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry at Tel Aviv University**. It is inexcusable that Jews in Europe are living in fear of violence, harassment, and abuse in 2018 for no reason other than their faith. When widespread anti-Semitism goes unchecked in Europe, the results are heinous, sometimes even deadly, and we must redouble our efforts to reverse the trend of such bigotry.”*



INTERNATIONAL MEDIA COVERAGE (non-exhaustive)

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS (AP)

THE NEW YORK TIMES

THE WASHINGTON POST

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

FOX NEWS

ABC NEWS

YAHOO NEWS

THE DAILY MAIL

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

NATIONAL POST (CANADA)

DEUTSCHE WELLE



Washington | May 6 - 8, 2018

ADL Leadership Summit 2018

EJC took part at this year's Anti-Defamation League (ADL) National Leadership Summit, which took place between 6-8 May 2018.

EJC Director of EU Affairs, Nuno Wahnnon Martins took part in a panel titled 'The face of Modern Antisemitism', together with former U.S. Special Envoy to the Office to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism Ira Forman. The panel discussed current manifestations of antisemitism around the world including in the political sphere, as well as Jewish security and challenges to Jewish religious rights.

Once again this year, EJC sent students from its affiliated communities to the **ADL First Responders programme**, which brings young European Jewish leaders to New York and Washington, D.C. The Seminar is developed by professionals at the ADL on countering antisemitism, bigotry and anti-Israel bias among their peers and in the public sphere. The programme included participation at the National Leadership Summit in Washington.



Brussels | May 15, 2018

Roundtable discussion on antisemitism

A joint initiative of the EJC & the Bulgarian Permanent Representation





The roundtable on the adoption of the **EP Resolution on combating antisemitism** was chaired by the Bulgarian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and newly appointed coordinator on combating antisemitism, Georg Georgiev, and consisted of two sessions:

1. Exchange between national coordinators on antisemitism and Brussels based Jewish organisations;
2. Roundtable discussion between national coordinators, permanent representatives of EU and non-EU countries, Members of the EP-WGAS, European Commission, FRA representative and IHRA incoming chair and delegates.





Brussels | May 16, 2018

Major Jewish organisations and friends celebrate 70 years of Israel

In an unprecedented initiative, EJC joined efforts with the World Jewish Congress (WJC), the European Leadership Network (ELNET), B'nai B'rith International (BBI), the American Jewish Committee (AJC), EJC's Belgian affiliate, the Coordinating Committee of Belgian Jewish Organisations (CCOJB), the European Coalition for Israel (EC4I), and the European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS), to celebrate the wonderful story of Israel and its remarkable achievements.



INVITATION

Celebrating 70 years of Israel

Dinner & Party

*featuring Israeli singer
Ester Rada*

16 MAY 2018 - 19:00

Albert Hall – Roseland Room

(Complex, 649 Chaussée de Wavre, 1040 Bruxelles)

RSVP by email: registration@israel70.eu



EUROPEAN
JEWISH CONGRESS



WORLD
JEWISH
CONGRESS



B'NAI B'RITH
INTERNATIONAL



DAVID BEN-GURION

YOM HA'ATZMAUT

70 YEARS CELEBRATION









Brussels | May 23, 2018
European Parliament

Football unites, racism divides:

No to Racism. No to Xenophobia. No to Antisemitism

The EJC together with B'nai B'rith International (BBI), the EP-WGAS, the EP Sports Intergroup and the EP Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup (ARDI) organised a conference in order to address the issue of racism, xenophobia and antisemitism in football.

Among the participants were representatives of: Chelsea Foundation, UEFA, Borussia Dortmund, Royal Union Saint-Gilloise, Fare Network, Anne Frank House, ICCA, CST, journalists and numerous MEPs.











CAMPAIGNS & CALLS FOR ACTION

ONLINE CAMPAIGN - #NotInMyGame

Saying NO to antisemitism in football

EJC developed an online campaign in order to raise awareness about antisemitism and racism in football.

Not In My game is a campaign that aims to reclaim sports; a campaign that signals that there will never be room for hate in our public life. European Politicians and athletes from all over Europe will take a stand and emphasise that racism, xenophobia and antisemitism will never be tolerated: #NotInMygame.

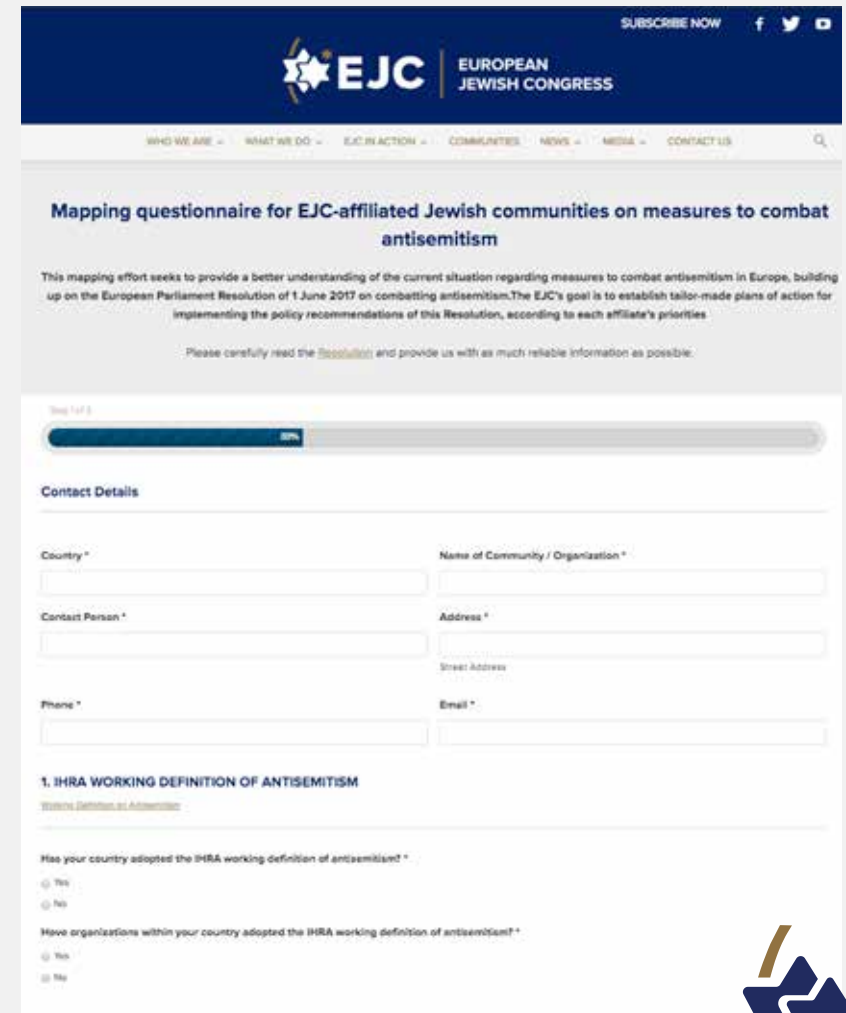
As part of the EJC campaign **#NotInMyGame**, footballers from Ligue 1 Italia and Borussia Dortmund sent video messages expressing their support for the initiative.



CAMPAIGNS & CALLS FOR ACTION

MAPPING: Policy calls of the EP Resolution on antisemitism

In order to understand Jewish communities' priorities regarding measures to combat antisemitism outlined in the EP Resolution and to advocate more effectively with Member States for implementation, the EJC organised a mapping survey among affiliates. Preliminary findings were presented to Permanent Representatives and experts.



The screenshot shows the EJC (European Jewish Congress) website header with the logo and navigation links. Below the header, the title of the questionnaire is displayed: "Mapping questionnaire for EJC-affiliated Jewish communities on measures to combat antisemitism". A brief description of the mapping effort follows, stating its purpose is to provide a better understanding of the current situation regarding measures to combat antisemitism in Europe, building up on the European Parliament Resolution of 1 June 2017 on combating antisemitism. The EJC's goal is to establish tailor-made plans of action for implementing the policy recommendations of this Resolution, according to each affiliate's priorities. A progress bar indicates "Step 1 of 2" with a "30%" completion rate. The "Contact Details" section includes fields for Country, Name of Community / Organization, Contact Person, Address, Street Address, Phone, and Email. Below this, the section "1. IHRA WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM" is shown, with a link to the "Working Definition of Antisemitism". Two questions are listed: "Has your country adopted the IHRA working definition of antisemitism?" and "Have organizations within your country adopted the IHRA working definition of antisemitism?", each with radio button options for "Yes" and "No".



CAMPAIGNS & CALLS FOR ACTION

FRA SECOND SURVEY on antisemitism

EJC Vice-President in charge of Security, Ariel Muzicant and Public Affairs Officer, Benny Fischer, met with Prof. Michael O'Flaherty, current Director of the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency. The meeting aimed to coordinate actions in support of the **FRA Second Survey** on discrimination and hate crime against Jews.

This unique survey measures perceptions of antisemitism by Jews, and with sufficient participation, has the potential to produce invaluable data, for instance on the extent to which antisemitic incidents are not (or no longer) being reported.

Subsequently, community Directors were briefed on the survey and a call for action was sent by EJC to all 13 communities where the survey is taking place, asking for their support in disseminating it.



CAMPAIGNS & CALLS FOR ACTION

Icelandic bill on criminalising Brit Milah

EJC called on its affiliated members to take action regarding the anti-circumcision bill aiming at criminalising Brit Milah submitted on 30 January 2018 for voting and adoption by a Member of the Icelandic Parliament from the Progressive Party, Ms. Silja Dögg Gunnarsdóttir (member of the liberal group).

EJC asked the communities to take the following steps:

1. Request a meeting with the Ambassador of Iceland in their respective country;
2. Submit their concerns and arguments against the bill to the Standing Committee of the Parliament;



CAMPAIGNS & CALLS FOR ACTION

EJC joins forces with major Jewish organisations and friends to oppose the entrance of BDS Co-Founder Omar Barghouti in the European Parliament

EJC together with WJC, B'nai B'rith International, ELNET, AJC, CCOJB, EUJS and the Jewish Community of Lisbon, wrote a letter to European Parliament President Antonio Tajani to ask not to allow the entrance to Omar Barghouti, Co-Founder of the BDS movement, in the European Parliament ahead of a conference on **'Israeli Settlements in Palestine and the European Union.'** The request was denied.



CAMPAIGNS & CALLS FOR ACTION

EJC calls on S&D political group and EP President Antonio Tajani to take disciplinary measures against MEP Ana Gomes

During the conference ‘**Israeli Settlements in Palestine and the European Union**’, the host of the conference, MEP Ana Gomes, called Jewish organisations a “perverse lobby that tries to intimidate people”. **The S&D Group distanced itself from the conference by removing their banner during the event.**

EJC and the above mentioned organisations wrote another letter to Mr. Tajani and to the S&D political group to take appropriate disciplinary measures against Ana Gomes for her antisemitic remarks.



OP-EDS & OPEN LETTERS

EUREPORTER – December 19, 2017

Last chance for Poland to return property to rightful owners

by Raya Kalenova

CNN - January 29, 2018

The power of words in the battle against hate

by Moshe Kantor



OP-EDS & OPEN LETTERS

EUREPORTER – March 13, 2018

MEP Ana Gomes is calling Jewish organisations a ‘perverse lobby’

by Raya Kalenova

THE TELEGRAPH - March 30, 2018

We cannot sit idly by and let antisemitism thrive

by Moshe Kantor

WALL STREET JOURNAL

- May 17, 2018

Time for stronger Jewish unity on the issues that matter

by Moshe Kantor





An Open Letter

LEADING THE GOOD FIGHT AGAINST ANTISEMITISM

By Dr. Moshe Kantor, President of the European Jewish Congress



Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO and National Director of the ADL (l) and Dr. Moshe Kantor, EJC President

Today, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) launches its National Leadership Summit.

Antisemitism in a globalized world knows no geographical boundaries, so it is important that this topic is central at the ADL Summit. On behalf of 42 national Jewish communities across Europe, I commend the work of the ADL in fighting antisemitism and all forms of hate around the world.

These discussions could not be more timely. Across the Old Continent, as in the United States, we are witnessing the rise of antisemitism.

It is manifested in its sharpest form in parts of Western Europe – home to our largest communities - where violent attacks, most notably in France, mean that neither the public nor the private space are today safe for Jews.

We were reminded of this only a few weeks ago with the brutal murder of Mireille Knoll, an 85-year-old Holocaust survivor, who was stabbed and burned in her own home in Paris. It is not the first murder of Jews in France in recent times, which have seen the shootings of Jewish schoolchildren, a massacre in a Jewish supermarket, the defenestration of a Jewish woman and the savage kidnapping and murder of a Jewish youth.

Tens of thousands of French Jews have voted with their feet, relocating either to other parts of the country, or abroad, because of antisemitism.

The European Jewish Congress is the democratically-elected organization representing approximately 2.5 million Jews in 42 national communities across the European continent. Its president, Dr. Moshe Kantor, is a prominent European public figure, international philanthropist, entrepreneur and investor. He is recognised internationally for his role in combating racism and antisemitism, promoting tolerance and contributing to revitalising Jewish life in Europe and beyond.

www.eurojewcong.org
info@ejcbrussels.com

In Germany, the mundane decision of wearing a yarmulke outside is now considered an act of high risk. In 2017, the country recorded 1453 antisemitic incidents, an average of four a day.

Across Europe, the extreme-right is marching down the streets and into our parliaments. The Holocaust is denied, minimized and relativized, even by some governing parties in Central and Eastern Europe.

In Britain, Labour Party Leader Jeremy Corbyn, a man many see as a future British Prime Minister, has called the genocidal terrorists of Hamas and Hezbollah his "friends", and allowed antisemitism to fester in his party with various members denying the Shoah, preaching hatred against Jews and calling for the destruction of Israel.

Antisemitism, old and new, is clearly on the rise, at the highest political echelons, in religious institutions and on the streets. Even our homes are no longer safe.

This is the reality of Jewish existence in 2018 in Europe. It is the sign of a profound societal sickness.

We need our leaders to do their utmost to bring Jewish communal life back to normal. We welcome the acknowledgement of the problem and commitment to fighting it, notably by President Macron, Prime Minister May and Chancellor Merkel, but now we need further action, both from governments and from civil society.

We need an end to hate speech and incitement against Jews and other minorities. We need to strengthen the educational and legislative tools to fight hate, racism and antisemitism. We need a shift in society's way of thinking on these issues to return to our secure and democratic way of life.

With the recent rises in antisemitism on both sides of the Atlantic honestly and courageously charted by the ADL, this is a global phenomenon which requires global solutions.

We cannot fight antisemitism as if it is only a Jewish problem. Hatred and intolerance are society's problems, and together we must act and lead the good fight.

Dr. Moshe Kantor
President
European Jewish Congress

WASHINGTON POST
- May 7, 2018



