



European
Jewish Congress
Congrès Juif Européen

ACTIVITY REPORT

2013 - 2017



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The activity report provides information about the major events, high-level meetings and activities organised or attended by the European Jewish Congress (EJC) since the WJC Plenary Assembly that took place in Budapest on 8 May 2013. The report also includes few op-eds by Dr Moshe Kantor, EJC president, during the course of these years. This document is not exhaustive, but it rather intends to reflect the main objectives and achievements as well as the main campaigns driven by EJC for the wellbeing and the security of its affiliated Jewish Communities and the success of the EU-Israel relations.

JERUSALEM, 28 JUNE 2013

Meeting with the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

EJC President Dr Moshe Kantor met with Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli Prime Minister, to discuss the EU's moves to label goods from Israeli companies operating over the 'Green Line', the long overdue proscription of Hezbollah as a terrorist organisation within the European Union as well as other issues of mutual concern and interest.





BRUSSELS, 1 JULY 2013

Meeting with the President of Croatia Ivo Josipovic

EJC Executive Vice-President Raya Kalenova met with President Ivo Josipovic at a ceremony held in Brussels to mark Croatia's entry into the European Union.

BUCHAREST, 9 JULY 2013

Meeting with senior Romanian leaders

An EJC delegation, headed by its President Moshe Kantor, met with senior Romanian leaders, including Prime Minister Victor Ponta, President of the Chamber of Deputies, Valeriu Zgonea, Minister of State for Strategic and European Affairs and Minister of Justice, Catalin Predoiu and other leaders. EJC delegation spoke to the Romanian leaders about the need for Hezbollah to be added to the European Union's terror list and its activities proscribed, the EU initiative to promote the labeling of Israeli goods originating from the West Bank as well as the threat to Jewish communities in Europe from growing Antisemitism.





BRUSSELS, 29 OCTOBER 2013

Meeting with the Board of Deputies of British Jews (BoD)

A delegation from EJC's affiliate in the United Kingdom, the Board of Deputies of British Jews (BoD), visited EJC and held discussions on combating Antisemitism and links between a growth in nationalism and far-Right Antisemitism in continental Europe.





VILNIUS, 11 NOVEMBER 2013

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights Conference

EJC Executive Vice-President Raya Kalenova opened the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) Conference key stakeholders' meeting to discuss the findings of the FRA's survey on perceptions and experiences of hate crimes against Jews, which was published on 8 November 2013.

BERLIN, 21 NOVEMBER 2013

Annual Community Day of the Central Council of Jews in Germany (Zentralrat)

Moshe Kantor addressed the Annual Community Day of the Central Council of Jews in Germany (Zentralrat) in Berlin. More than 500 community members, representatives, delegates and guests attended this event.

Photo Credit: Gregor Zielke



BRUSSELS, 25 NOVEMBER 2013

Meeting of directors of EJC's affiliated communities

Jewish community directors from more than a dozen national communities across Europe met in Brussels at the EJC office alongside representatives of the World Jewish Congress and the European Union of Jewish Students. Items highlighted at the meeting included the mobilisation of Jewish communities in advance of elections for the European Parliament in May 2014 and the growth of the far-Right, relations between the European Union and Israel, combating Antisemitism and the campaign to protect Jewish rights.



BRUSSELS, 26 NOVEMBER 2013

Symposium on combating Antisemitism

European Parliament

EJC organised a Symposium on combating Antisemitism in collaboration with B'nai B'rith International and with the special participation of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), which presented the results of its first ever survey report on Antisemitism in 8 EU countries. Speakers included the Vice-President of the European Parliament Laszlo Surjan, the President of CRIF Roger Cukierman, the Head of Unit of the Fundamental Rights in the DG Justice of the European Commission Salla Saastamoinen as well as famous comedian and writer Ivor Baddiel who presented the Y-Word film, about the Antisemitism in football.



Is Europe distancing itself from its core Fundamental EU values? Are current EU legal tools and mechanisms enough to act and react to antisemitism and hate crime?

MEP Claude Moraes invites you to attend a Symposium organized by the:

European Jewish Congress
Inter-parliamentary Coalition for Combating Antisemitism
B'nai B'rith International

Opening remarks by MEP László Surján Vice-President of the European Parliament

JOIN our discussion in the European Parliament Room A1G-2
on Tuesday 26th November 2013 from 13:30-15:00

On the occasion of the release of the
EU Fundamental Rights Agency
survey report on Antisemitism



Speakers

- MEP Claude Moraes in his capacity as Chair of the Informal Working Group on Antisemitism
- Salla Saastamoinen Head of Unit, Fundamental rights, European Commission
- Ioannis Dimitrakopoulos FRA expert, Head of Equality and Citizen's Rights Department
- John Mann British Member of Parliament and Chair of the Inter-Parliamentary Coalition for Combating Antisemitism
- Roger Cukierman, President of CRIF (French Jewish representative Council) and European Jewish Congress Vice-President.

Including the very special attendance of David Baddiel and Ivor Baddiel representing the Kick the racism out of football campaign with their Y-Word video.

Refreshments will be provided as from 12h45.

Follow the EP Symposium on antisemitism on #EP/FRA on Twitter





LONDON, 28 NOVEMBER 2013

Annual Board of Deputies of British Jews' Dinner

Moshe Kantor gave a speech at the Annual Board of Deputies of British Jews' Dinner that took place at the Mansion House in the City of London. The Israeli Ambassador to the court of St. James His Excellency Daniel Taub, the UK Home Secretary Theresa May as well as officers and representatives of the Board also addressed the 350 guests.

ATHENS, 9 DECEMBER 2013

Meeting of the Executive Committee Members with Greek leaders

EJC Executive Committee met in Athens to express support for the actions undertaken by the Greek Government against the neo-Nazi party, the Golden Dawn. During the Executive meeting, the Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras was presented with an award "in recognition of his courageous leadership in protecting tolerance and human rights". EJC Executive Committee also held a lunch meeting with the Greek Minister of Culture Panos Panagiotopoulos.





BRUSSELS, 27 JANUARY 2014

International Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony European Parliament

EJC organised the International Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony in partnership with the President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz. Moshe Kantor addressed the ceremony alongside Martin Schulz, Antonis Samaras, Prime Minister of Greece, the holder of the rotating Presidency of the European Council and Ambassador Ronald Lauder, President of the World Jewish Congress.







Mr. Martin Schulz,
President of the
European Parliament



Dr. Moshe Kantor,
EJC President



Mr. Antonis Samaras,
Prime Minister of Greece



Ambassador Ronald Lauder,
WJC President



Ivry Gitlis (violin)



"I never saw another butterfly"
performed by Voices of the Holocaust



VIENNA, 28 FEBRUARY 2014

Meeting with the Austrian President Heinz Fischer

EJC Executive Committee headed by its President Moshe Kantor met with the Austrian President Heinz Fischer to discuss about the negotiations between Iran and the P5+1 which took place in Vienna, the increasing rise of Antisemitism and the predicted rise of extremist and neo-Nazi parties in the upcoming European Parliament elections.

BUCHAREST, 10 MARCH 2014

Moshe Kantor awarded with the Romanian Medal 'Grand Cross of the National Order of Merit'





EJC President Moshe Kantor was awarded the Medal “Grand Cross of the National Order of Merit” by Romanian President Traian Basescu in his presidential Palace as a “symbol of great appreciation for his moral and professional contribution to tolerance, reconciliation and peace in Europe which he has demonstrated throughout his life, for his strong contribution in preserving Jewish heritage and dialogue between faiths and ethnic groups, as well as contributing to Romanian-Israeli relations.” The EJC delegation also held private meetings with President Basescu and Prime Minister Victor Ponta to discuss key issues of concern impacting upon Jewish life across the continent. The ceremony was followed by a dinner in the presence of members of the Diplomatic Corps, Former Romanian Presidents, MPs and other high level officials from the public and private sector.

ST. PETERSBURG, 30 MARCH 2014

International Conference on Neo-Nazism in Europe: 70 Years Later

Moshe Kantor addressed the International Conference on Neo-Nazism in Europe: 70 Years Later. The event brought together representatives of public organizations from more than 20 countries, as well as statesmen, youth leaders and experts from Russia, and from European Union Member States.





JERUSALEM, 24 APRIL 2014

Meeting with Israeli leaders: Benjamin Netanyahu, Yair Lapid and Gen. Lt. Benny Gantz

In the scope of its Executive Committee meeting, an EJC delegation headed by Moshe Kantor met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli Finance Minister Yair Lapid and IDF Chief of Staff Gen. Lt. Benny Gantz. Discussions focused on the agreement between the Palestinian Authority and the Gaza-based terror group, Hamas, and its impact on the peace process, the continuing threat from the development of nuclear weapons capacity by Iran and on relations between Israel and the European Union, the BDS movement and the way it affects not only Israel but also the European Jewish Community.



EJC ACTIVITY REPORT 2013 – 2017



TEL-AVIV, 28 APRIL 2014

Annual report on Antisemitism Worldwide 2013

Moshe Kantor spoke at a conference following the release of the findings of the 'Annual report on Antisemitism Worldwide 2013' by the Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism at Tel Aviv University, in cooperation with the European Jewish Congress.



EUROPEAN ELECTIONS MAY 2014

GO & VOTE



FREEDOM IS AS FRAGILE AS GLASS

"Don't be a Minus One be a Plus One
For you and for Europe"



BRUSSELS, 20 MAY 2014

Call for action video: Your Europe-Your Freedoms-Your Choice

Prior to the European Parliament elections, EJC released a video calling for electors across the European Member States to vote for Europe: Your Europe-Your Freedoms-Your Choice! The non-partisan video, which features the various freedoms guaranteed by the European Union, details the values upon which the Union was formed and asks electors across the 28 member bloc to engage positively with the issues presented at elections' week. The video was as well shared on the official website of the European Parliament.

BRUSSELS, 25 MAY 2014

Meeting with the Belgian Prime Minister Elio Di Rupo

Moshe Kantor held talks with Belgian Prime Minister Elio Di Rupo following the terrorist attack on the Belgium's Jewish Museum in central Brussels where four people were shot dead by an Islamist terrorist. Kantor called upon the Belgian government to place the Jewish institutions under maximum security and urged for a greater intelligence sharing among European law enforcement and intelligence agencies and stronger policing laws to act against these terror attacks in Europe.





BRUSSELS, 25 JUNE 2014

‘Bring back our boys and girls!’ campaign

EJC joined with Christian and Jewish groups at a demonstration outside the headquarters of the European Commission Brussels in solidarity with the kidnapped girls in Nigeria and the three abducted Israeli teenagers, kidnapped by Hamas. Ariella Woitchik, Director of Legal and Public Affairs, addressed the demonstration on behalf of EJC.

PARIS, 9 JULY 2014

Meeting with the French President François Hollande

EJC Delegation headed by its President Moshe Kantor met with French President François Hollande and called upon him to place the battle against Antisemitism at the top of the European agenda.





BRUSSELS, 6 NOVEMBER 2014

“Austrian Railways during World War II” Exhibition

EJC took part in an exhibition about the role of the Austrian Railways in assisting in the mass deportation of Jews to the death camps during World War II. In an address to the gathering, which included Members of the European Parliament and Ambassadors, EJC Executive Vice-President Raya Kalenova praised the Austrian State Railways and its CEO Christian Kern for their initiative to officially recognize their role in assisting the Nazi Third Reich.



BRUSSELS, 21 NOVEMBER 2014

Meeting with the President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz

European Parliament

Moshe Kantor accompanied by Raya Kalenova met with European Parliament President Martin Schulz. They discussed the recent attacks on Jewish individuals and institutions in Europe and rising Antisemitism across the continent.



BRUSSELS, 26 NOVEMBER 2014

“European Coalition for Israel – 11th Annual Policy Conference”

European Parliament

EJC joined with the European Coalition for Israel, a leading Christian advocacy group, in calling for immediate action in support of the persecuted religious minorities in Syria and Iraq and for a coherent strategy against the surge of Antisemitism in Europe. A joint statement co-signed by EJC, Pentecostal European Fellowship and One Free World International was read and handed over to the Director of the EU European External Action Service (EEAS), following the ECI 11th Annual Policy Conference in the European Parliament.



BRUSSELS, 14 JANUARY 2015

Meeting with the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs Federica Mogherini European Commission

During a meeting with High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini, an EJC delegation headed by Moshe Kantor called for the appointment of a Special European Union Envoy and a Special Task-force to combat rising Antisemitism.



Image: Marc DOSSMANN (Courtesy of EJC)

15 JANUARY 2015

Preventing the Next Jewish Exodus

The Wall Street Journal

“In the immediate term, intelligence-gathering and sharing across Europe must increase. The current system is neither efficient nor vigilant enough.”

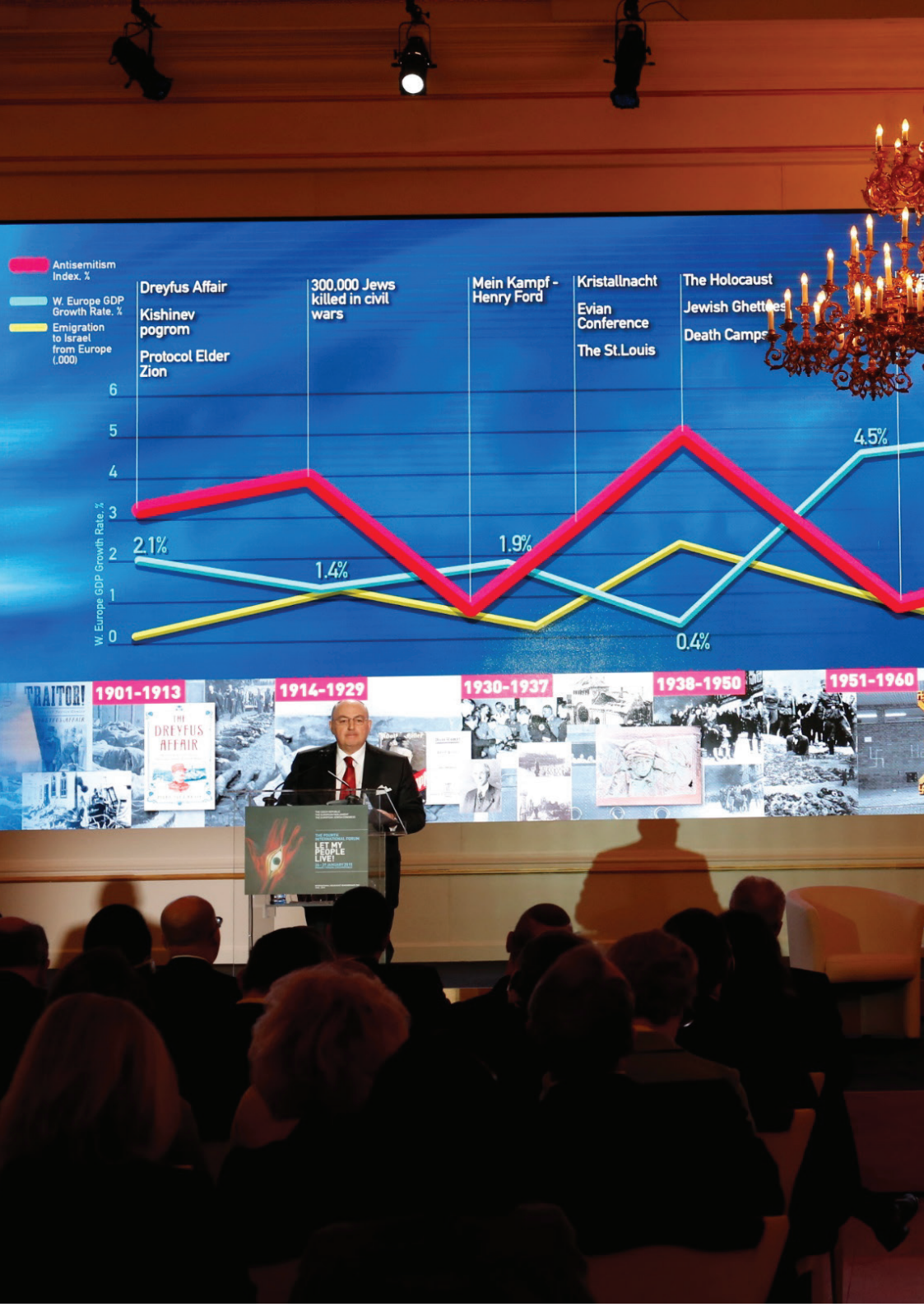
(Moshe Kantor)



PRAGUE & TEREZIN, 26-27 JANUARY 2015

The Fourth International "Let My People Live!" Forum Prague Castle



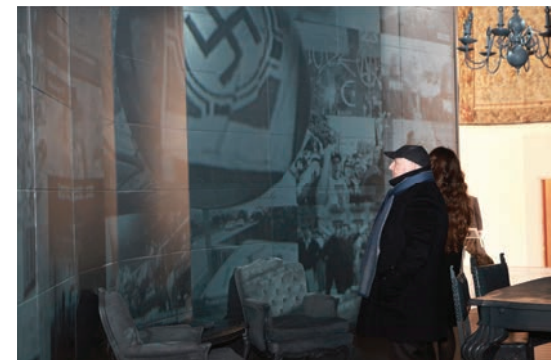


EJC with the partnership of the World Holocaust Forum, the President of the Czech Republic Miloš Zeman and the President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz organised the Fourth International "Let My People Live!" Forum. The Forum gathered pan-European intellectuals and high-level politicians to discuss practical ways to combat the rise of Antisemitism, racism and religious radicalism in Europe. Following a series of inspired debates, 25 Speakers from Parliaments across the continent came together to adopt a historic declaration on Antisemitism and hate crimes – The Prague Declaration. The commemoration ceremony took place in Theresienstadt.



The Recreation of Reinhard Heydrich's office

In this office Reinhard Heydrich, chief of the Reich Main Security Office, drew up plans for the 'Final Solution to the Jewish Question'.





Opening of the Session of the 'Let My People Live! Forum

26 JANUARY 2015
Spanish Hall, Prague Castle

Panel Discussions

26 JANUARY 2015

Spanish Hall, Prague Castle

Panel 1: The role of the media & public figures

Moderator:

Stephen Sackur

BBC Hard Talk

Participants:

Bernard -Henri Lévy

Renowned French author and philosopher

Abraham Foxman

National Director of the Anti-Defamation League

Timothy Snyder

Professor at Yale University/Historian



Panel Discussions

26 JANUARY 2015

Spanish Hall, Prague Castle

Panel 2: The Role of Legislation and Law Enforcement

Participants:

Irwin Cotler

International Human Rights Lawyer

Alan Dershowitz

International Lawyer and Professor

Yoram Dinstein

Former President Tel-Aviv University

Vera Jourova

European Union Commissioner of Justice



Panel Discussions

26 JANUARY 2015

Spanish Hall, Prague Castle

Panel 3: The Role of politicians

Participants:

Cemil Cicek

Speaker of the National Assembly in Turkey

Jan Hamacek

Chairman of the Chamber of Deputies of the
Czech Parliament

Yuli-Yoël Edelstein

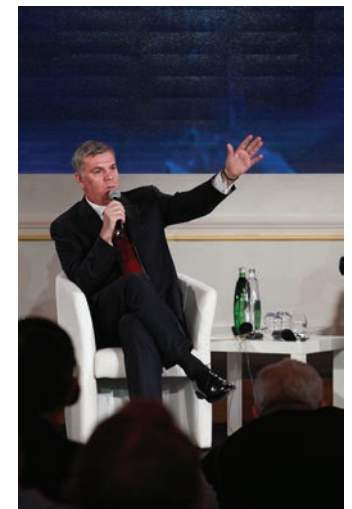
Speaker of the Knesset

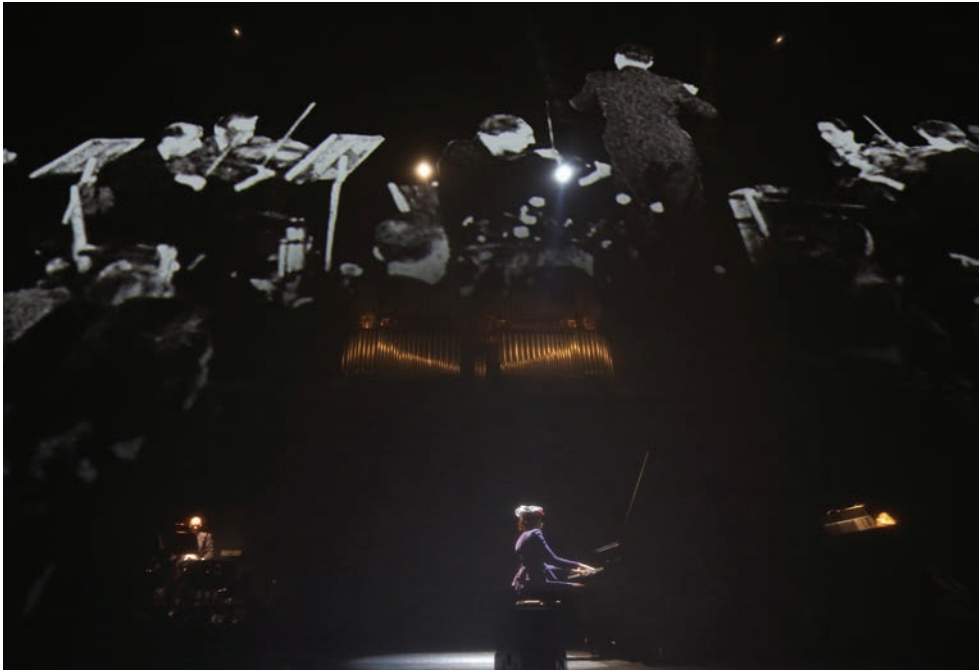
Ilyas Umakhanov

Deputy Chairman of the Federation Council
of the Federal Assembly of Russia

Valeriu Stefan Zgonea

President of the Chamber of Deputies of Romania





Dinner in the Municipal House, Prague



Roundtable of Speakers of Parliament from 25 countries to adopt the "Prague Declaration on combating Antisemitism and hate crimes"

27 JANUARY 2015

Prague Castle



Mr. Milos Zeman,
President of the Czech Republic



Mr. Martin Schulz,
President of the European Parliament



Dr. Moshe Kantor,
EJC President



Mr. Yuli-Yoël Edelstein,
Speaker of the Knesset



Mr. Rosen Plevneliev,
President of the Republic of Bulgaria

Closing of the Forum

27 JANUARY 2015

Prague Castle, Spanish Hall

Yellow Stars Concerto
by Isaac Schwartz

Maestro Vladimir Spivakov







International Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony
27 JANUARY 2015
Terezin





BRUSSELS, 26 FEBRUARY 2015

Meeting with First Vice-President of the European Commission Frans Timmermans

Moshe Kantor met with Frans Timmermans, First Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of the Rule of Law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights, to call upon the European Commission to support and enhance the security of European Jewish communities as well as to create an EU Task-force to combat Antisemitism.

BRUSSELS, 4 MARCH 2015

European Parliament Working Group on Antisemitism

Members of the European Parliament are urged to take action against Antisemitism

EJC organised, as member of the Advisory Board for the European Parliament Working Group on Antisemitism, a meeting in the European Parliament to urge MEPs and the European Union institutions to take viable measures to secure the safety of European Jewry and combat rising Antisemitism. The meeting was attended by around 25 cross-party MEPs from 16 different European member states. High-profile expert speakers were invited to take the floor including: Paul Nemitz, Director for Fundamental Rights and Justice at the European Commission, Ioannis Dimitrakopoulos, Head of Equality and Citizen Rights' Department at the FRA and Baron Julien Klener, President of the Belgian Central Israelite Consistory.



LONDON, 9 MARCH 2015

Medal of Tolerance by the European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation (ECTR)



EJC attended a ceremony at Kensington Palace where three-time Champions League winner Samuel Eto'o and the FARE Network, an anti-discrimination and social inclusion network that counters inequality and exclusion in football, were awarded the Third European Medal of Tolerance by the European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation (ECTR), chaired by Moshe Kantor. Samuel was awarded the Medal of Tolerance because of his personal leadership and devotion to combating manifestations of racism and intolerance. Personally, a victim of many racist incidents, he has found the courage and will to stand against the racists, building awareness and inspiring fellow footballers and millions of football fans. The FARE Network has received the medal due to their bold stand against discrimination and racism.

BRUSSELS, 27 MARCH 2015

Meeting with the BoD and Members of the European Parliament

EJC Executive Vice-President Raya Kalenova and Director of Public and Legal Affairs Ariella Woit-chik joined a delegation from the Board of Deputies of British Jews (BoD) at meetings with Members of the European Parliament. The Board delegation included Vice-President Alex Brummer, CEO Gillian Merron, Director of Public Affairs Phil Rosenberg and Public Affairs Officer David Walsh. Issues raised during the meetings dealt with Antisemitism and the security of Jewish communities across Europe, the establishment of an EU Task-force on Antisemitism and the protection of Jewish religious rights. The impact of the recent Israeli elections on future EU/Israel relations was also discussed.





BRUSSELS, 14 APRIL 2015

European Parliament Working Group on Antisemitism

The rising problem of Antisemitism within Muslim Communities

The European Parliament Working Group on Antisemitism met to discuss the rising problem of Antisemitism within Muslim Communities. Haras Rafiq, Managing Director of the Quilliam Foundation in the United Kingdom, Ayca Demirel, co-founder of the Kreuzberg Initiative against Antisemitism and Siavosh Derakhti, founder of the non-profit organisation Young People against Antisemitism and Xenophobia, were the main speakers. The meeting was chaired by the group's co-chair Cecilia Wikström MEP. Members of the European Parliament from across the political groups and from 16 member states, representatives of the European Commission as well as Jewish and non-Jewish organisations' representatives attended the meeting.



Mr. Haras Rafiq,
Managing Director of the
Quilliam Foundation



Mr. Aycan Demirel,
Co-founder of the Kreuzberg Initiative
against Antisemitism



Mr. Siavosh Derakhti,
Founder of the non-profit organisation
Young People against Antisemitism and
Xenophobia

LONDON, 5 MAY 2015

Annual Board of Deputies of British Jews' Dinner

EJC President Moshe Kantor addressed the Annual Dinner of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, in the presence of the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, Lords and Members of the Parliament, distinguished personalities as well as leading members of BoD.





TEL-AVIV, 11, 12 MAY 2015

The General Assembly of the European Jewish Congress

EJC held a General Assembly Meeting in Tel-Aviv providing a platform for Presidents from across its affiliated communities to bring forward, discuss and verify strategy on issues they currently face. Over 25 presidents of European Jewish communities were present including some newly elected community Presidents who were introduced by the EJC to all participants. Reports and updates were delivered by the leaders of the largest Jewish communities.

26 MAY 2015

Fighting radical Islam: Why Europe should move to war footing

CNN

CNN Regions » U.S. | Africa | Americas | Asia | China | Europe | Middle East | Opinion International Edition + 🔍 ☰

Fighting radical Islam: Why Europe should move to war footing

By Moshe Kantor
🕒 Updated 0926 GMT (1726 HKT) May 26, 2015

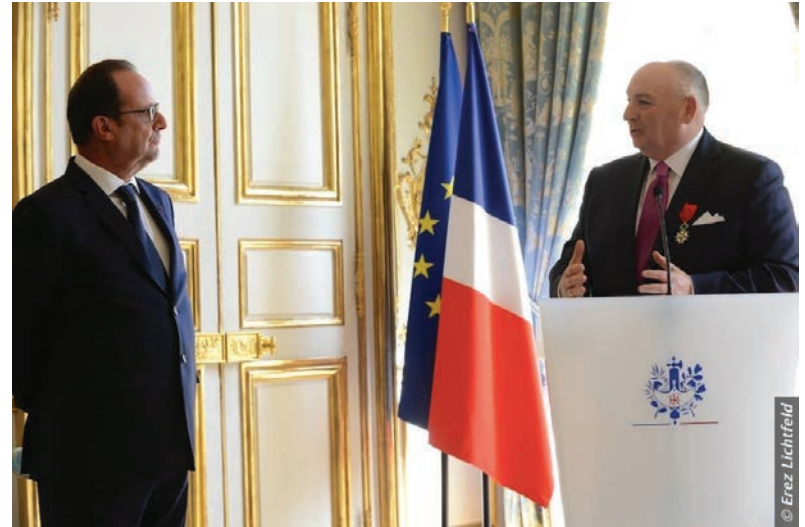


Photos: Shooting at Jewish Museum of Belgium

Shooting at Jewish Museum of Belgium – Police have arrested Mehdi Nemmouche, a 29-year-old Frenchman, in Marseille, France, in connection with the shooting deaths of three people on May 24 at the Jewish Museum in Brussels, Belgium, according to Belgian authorities.

“Each attack, whether against editors, caricaturists and workers at Charlie Hebdo in Paris, British soldiers in London, French soldiers in Montauban, or Jewish schoolchildren in Toulouse sends a clear message to those fashioning a new Europe that its principles and citizens are under attack. However, the response of the European authorities still demonstrates that they have not recognized the threat directed at Europe from within, or assumed an adequate level of preparedness for the next attack.”

(Moshe Kantor)



PARIS, 30 JUNE 2015

Moshe Kantor awarded the Medal “Officier de la Légion d'Honneur”

Moshe Kantor was awarded the Medal “Officier de la Légion d'Honneur” (Officer of the Legion of Honour) by the President of French Republic François Hollande. The award is the highest decoration in France, established by Napoleon Bonaparte. For two centuries, it has been presented on behalf of the Head of State to reward the most deserving citizens in all fields of activity.

BRUSSELS, 24 JULY 2015

European Parliament Working Group on Antisemitism

European Union Special Envoy and Task-force on Antisemitism

EJC organised and took part in a meeting of the European Parliament Working Group on Antisemitism. The aim of the meeting was to provide a platform for input about how an EU-Envoy and Task-Force on Antisemitism could be framed, what the exact role of those responsible would be and who should take on these roles. The following special guest speakers offered their expert insight: Mr. Gilles Clavreul, Interministerial Delegate on Racism and Antisemitism for the French Government and Ms. Sally Sealey, Senior Policy Advisor Tackling Hate Crime and Extremism in the UK.





Mr. Gilles Clavreul,
Interministerial Delegate on Racism and
Antisemitism for the French Government



Ms. Sally Sealey,
Senior Policy Advisor Tackling Hate Crime
and Extremism in the UK



THE HAGUE, 17 SEPTEMBER 2015

Meeting with Europol

An EJC delegation, headed by Dr Ariel Muzicant, EJC Vice-President in Charge of Security and Crisis Management, met in The Hague with Europol Management Board Chairperson Gennaro Capoluongo and Manuel Navarrete, Head of the Counter Terrorism Department of Europol, the European Union's law enforcement agency, to discuss the rise in violent attacks of terrorism against the Jewish community in Europe.



BRUSSELS, 2 OCTOBER 2015

The First Annual Colloquium on Fundamental Rights in the European Union

Moshe Kantor sounded the alarm over the significant rise of Antisemitism on the continent at the First Annual Colloquium on Fundamental Rights in the European Union, where he spoke on behalf of European Jewry. The First Vice President of the European Commission (EC) Frans Timmermans appointed Katharina Van Schnurbein as EC Coordinator on combating Antisemitism.

VIENNA, 23 NOVEMBER 2015

“Combating Antisemitism through legal means” Seminar

The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists and the Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry conducted a seminar in Vienna focusing on opportunities to combat Antisemitism through legal means. The seminar was opened by EJC President Moshe Kantor, Austrian Federal Minister of Interior Johanna Mikl-Leitner, and Austrian Federal Minister of Justice Wolfgang Brandstetter. The EJC was represented by Ariel Muzicant, EJC Vice-President, who co-chaired the seminar and Oskar Deutsch, President of the Jewish Community of Vienna.





LONDON, 24 NOVEMBER 2015

Meeting with the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Rt. Hon. John Bercow MP

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EJC Executive members met in London to discuss the security crisis and other matters of concern to the Jewish communities of Europe. Prior to the meeting the EJC was hosted for lunch by the Speaker of the House of Commons, the Rt. Hon. John Bercow MP in the presence of several MPs.



BRUSSELS, 3 DECEMBER 2015

Meeting of directors of the EJC affiliated communities

The EJC Directors' meeting, which brought together national directors of Jewish communities from EJC's affiliates across Europe, took place over two days, and was preceded by a lunch discussion in the European Parliament hosted by the Working Group on Antisemitism (WGAS). H.E. Ambassador David Walzer, Head of the Israeli Mission to the EU, gave a keynote speech and elaborated on the links between anti-Zionism and Antisemitism.





MOSCOW, 19 JANUARY 2016

Meeting with the Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin

An EJC delegation headed by its President Moshe Kantor met with the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin in Moscow to discuss areas of concern to the Jewish community. Issues raised during the meeting included the rise of Antisemitism and the threat of global terror. The European Jewish delegation comprised representatives from the communities of France, The United Kingdom, Russia, Spain, Austria, Belgium, Switzerland and Latvia.



BRUSSELS, 25 JANUARY 2016

Meeting with the European Commissioner Pierre Moscovici

European Commission

Moshe Kantor and Raya Kalenova met with European Commissioner for Financial and Economic Affairs Pierre Moscovici and discussed about the increase in acts of Antisemitism in recent years and the challenges this presents to Jewish communities across the continent. Kantor called on Commissioner Moscovici to examine any possibility to develop an European Fund or a Public Private Partnership between Member States and/or the European Commission in order to answer this specific challenge.





BRUSSELS, 26 JANUARY 2016

Moshe Kantor re-elected as EJC President

EJC General Assembly met in Brussels to elect its leadership and discuss many of the pressing challenges facing European Jewish communities. Moshe Kantor was re-elected to another term as President of the EJC and Jonathan Arkush, President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, was elected as Chairman of the Council. The EJC General Assembly, attended by leaders from 42 European Jewish communities, discussed about the need to vigorously challenge and fight the BDS campaign, to strengthen the European Jewish communities, to seriously engage with national governments and relevant EU bodies to ensure they uphold their responsibilities for security in all arenas.

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BRUSSELS, 26 JANUARY 2016

EJC's 30th Anniversary Dinner

EJC celebrated its 30-anniversary during a gala dinner in the presence of the Belgian Minister of Interior Jan Jambon, Former UK Prime Minister and ECTR Chairman Rt. Hon. Tony Blair, Romanian Leader of the Chamber of Deputies Liviu Dragnea, Ambassadors, Members of the European Parliament, representatives of the European Commission, former EJC presidents, affiliated Jewish communities' representatives as well as representatives of Jewish and non-Jewish organisations. The European Jewish Congress was officially established as an independent structure in 1986.



Rt. Hon. Tony Blair, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom



Dr. Moshe Kantor, EJC President
Mr. Serge Cwajgenbaum, EJC General Secretary



Mr. Jan Jambon, Belgian Minister of Interior



Dr. Moshe Kantor, EJC President

Mr. Liviu Dragnea, Leader of the Romanian Social Democratic Party



BRUSSELS, 27 JANUARY 2016

International Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony

European Parliament





Holocaust Survivors during the International Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony

EJC in partnership with the President of the European Parliament held its annual International Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony. During his address, EP President Martin Schulz spoke about the rising dangers of Antisemitism and its effect on European Jewry and the continent as a whole. “Jewish life is part of our culture and our identity. Without the Jews Europe would not be Europe. Therefore it hurts that in today's Europe Jews again live in fear.” President Schulz said. Moshe Kantor called on European leaders and authorities to move beyond words and take action. Hungarian philosopher and Holocaust Survivor Ágnes Heller also addressed the audience. The event was attended by more than 250 people, including Ambassadors from European Members States to the EU, Members of the European Parliament, representatives of the European Commission, Holocaust Survivors, President of European Jewish Communities, and Jewish and non-Jewish organisations’ representatives.



Mr. Martin Schulz,
President of the European Parliament



Dr. Moshe Kantor,
President of the European Jewish Congress



Ms. Ágnes Heller,
Hungarian Philosopher and
Holocaust Survivor

BRUSSELS, 16 FEBRUARY 2016

Roundtable discussion following the European Commission First Colloquium on Fundamental Rights

European Parliament

EJC has demanded that the European Parliament adopt practical recommendations to fight Antisemitism, which include clear definition of Antisemitism on the model of the recent resolution on anti-Gypsism, at an event co-organised by the Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup and the Working Group on Antisemitism (WGAS) in the European Parliament. Ariella Woitchik, EJC Director of Legal and Public Affairs, said that decision makers must use the full force of education, legislation and law enforcement to fight radicalisation of young European citizens.



BRUSSELS, 4 MARCH 2016

Meeting with IT companies on online hate speech European Commission



EJC took an active part in the 'European Commission Coordination meeting with IT companies and civil society' and discussed the increasing number of hate speech online incidents and the best way to tackle this problem. IT companies spoke about the current challenges that they are facing and the measures taken so far to combat Antisemitism and other forms of discrimination. EJC shared with those present the experiences of its affiliated Jewish Communities and called upon the IT companies and the European Commission to increase their efforts in ensuring that the online platforms do not offer opportunities for illegal online hate speech to spread virally.

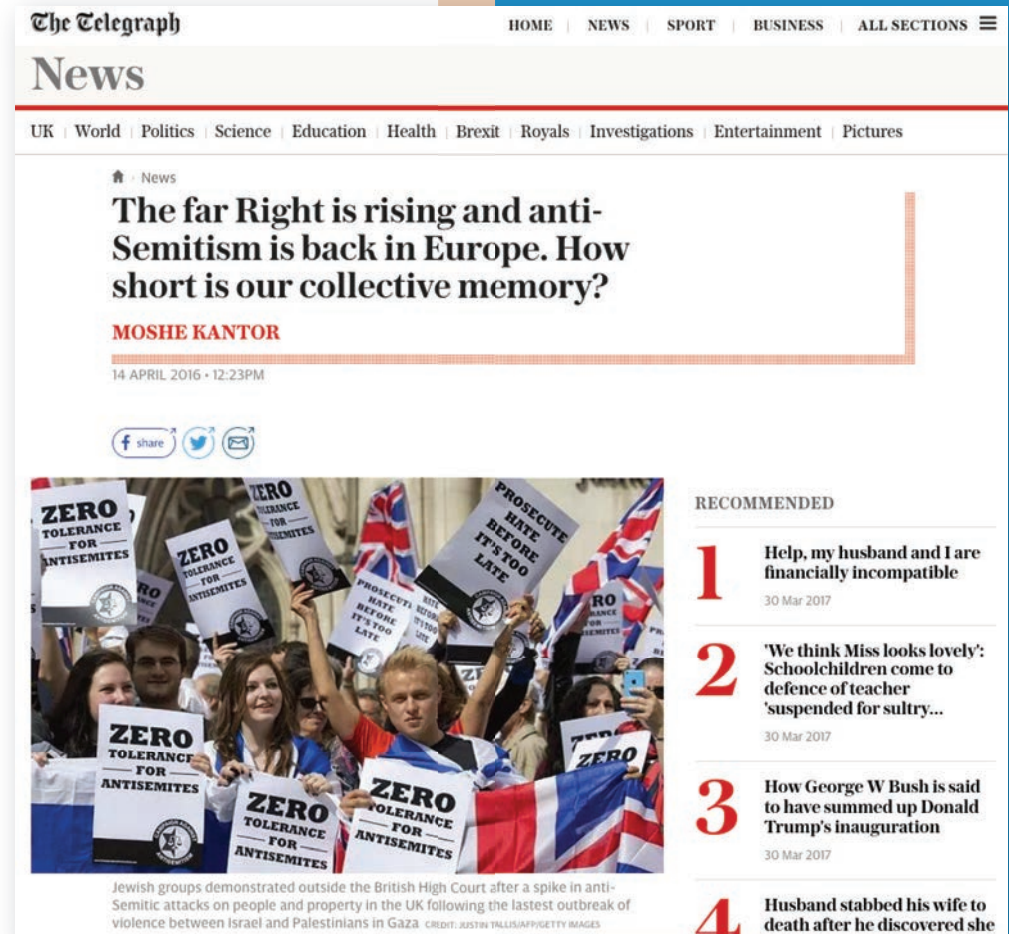
14 APRIL 2016

The far Right is rising and anti-Semitism is back in Europe. How short is our collective memory?

The Telegraph

“We need to go back to basics and ensure that all our children are taught in nurseries, schools, religious institutions and universities the importance of tolerance and respect for other communities. No child should grow up being exposed only to the narrow views of his or her parents. We need to end our destructive obsession with political correctness and break down barriers in closed communities.”

(Moshe Kantor)



BRUSSELS, 19 APRIL 2016

European Parliament Working Group on Antisemitism

Screening of the documentary
“Europe in crisis – A shattered haven”

The meeting of the European Parliament Working Group on Antisemitism (WGAS), organised by the EJC as its Secretariat and Member of the Advisory Board, focused on the issue of Islamist extremists and the rise of far-right parties as a threat to Europe and its Jewish communities. The documentary named “Europe in crisis – A shattered haven”, produced by EJC, was screened during the event and was followed by a debate with various Members of the European Parliament. Vidhya Ramalingam, expert on radicalisation issues, addressed the audience. The event was attended by MEPs coming from various Member States and political groups, advisors, staffers and NGO’s representatives.

The European Parliament Working Group on Antisemitism
invites you to a Documentary screening & Discussion

EUROPE IN CRISIS - A SHATTERED HAVEN

19 April 2016
11:30 – 13:30
Room P6B001 - European Parliament - Brussels



Speakers:
Hannah Stuart, *Fellow Researcher at Henry Jackson Society*
Vidhya Ramalingam, *Fellow at German Institute on Radicalization and De-radicalization Studies*

Hosted by:
MEP Juan Fernando Lopez Aguilar, MEP Heinz K. Becker & MEP Cecilia Wikström

Info & registration before 18 April 2016 at:
info@ejcbrussels.com

BRUSSELS, 2 MAY 2016



Meeting with the European Commissioner Carlos Moedas

European Commission

Moshe Kantor together with Raya Kalenova and Nuno Wahnnon Martins, EJC Director of EU Affairs, met with Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner on Science, Research and Innovation, to discuss issues of mutual concern and possible collaboration on projects beneficial to the European Jewish Community.

STOCKHOLM, 3 MAY 2016

Meeting with the Prime Minister of Sweden Stefan Löfven

Moshe Kantor together with the President of the Council of Jewish Communities in Sweden, Lena Posner-Korosi, EJC Chairman of the Council, Jonathan Arkush, EJC Vice-President Josef Schuster and EJC Executive Vice-President Raya Kalenova met with Sweden's Prime Minister Stefan Löfven in Stockholm, where they discussed issues of shared concern, including the battle against Antisemitism and extremism in Sweden.





STOCKHOLM, 3 MAY 2016

Meeting of the newly elected EJC Executive Committee

EJC Executive Committee Members met for the first time after the January 2016 elections. The new members were given the opportunity to share with the Executive Committee their vision, the challenges European Jewish citizens are currently facing and the best ways to tackle them within their respective community. The discussions also focused on the issue of immigrants and refugees and the attempts to integrate them into European society.





TEL AVIV, 6 MAY 2016

Annual Report on Antisemitism Worldwide 2015

The Kantor Centre for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry at Tel Aviv University, in cooperation with the European Jewish Congress, released its Annual Report on Antisemitism for 2015 during a press conference held at the University. Moshe Kantor commented on the findings saying that while there had been a substantial decrease in violent attacks against Jews, there had been a significant rise in “institutional Antisemitism.” The number of violent antisemitic incidents worldwide decreased quite dramatically during 2015, especially after the first months of the year, in comparison to 2014. During 2015, 410 violent cases were recorded, compared to 766 in 2014, a decrease of approximately 46%. The reasons for the decrease was the massive amount of security around Jewish institutions after the January attacks in Paris. This was proven by the fact that around Jewish sites like cemeteries and memorials which are less well-guarded there was no reduction in antisemitic incidents, and in countries in Central Europe and Scandinavia where there was little increase in security the number of incidents did not markedly decrease.



18 JULY 2016

Rise in Hate Crimes Shows Importance of Maintaining Security in Europe - Brexit or No Brexit

Huffington Post

“Moments of global tension are often followed by increased discrimination and intolerance, but instead of allowing this trend to continue we must use the UK vote to leave the European Union as an opportunity to usher in a new era of solidarity throughout Europe.” (Moshe Kantor)

The screenshot shows the Huffington Post website interface. At the top, it says 'HUFFPOST POLITICS UNITED KINGDOM'. Below this is a search bar and navigation links for various categories like FRONT PAGE, NEWS, POLITICS, etc. The article title is 'Rise in Hate Crimes Shows Importance of Maintaining Security in Europe - Brexit or No Brexit', dated 18/07/2016 15:55. The author is Dr. Moshe Kantor, President of the European Jewish Congress. The article text begins with 'Europe is in a flux. We are living through the most politically and economically uncertain period since the end of World War II. The famous Chinese curse "May you live in interesting times" could not be more apt. Whilst a new Prime Minister starts work in the UK, whilst the UK grepples with its exit from the EU and whilst the EU comes to terms with how to protect the Union, it is important that we do not lose sight of what is at stake for the security of our continent.'

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THE BLOG

Rise in Hate Crimes Shows Importance of Maintaining Security in Europe - Brexit or No Brexit

🕒 18/07/2016 15:55

f t p e m Like 71

Dr Moshe Kantor
President, the European Jewish Congress

Europe is in a flux. We are living through the most politically and economically uncertain period since the end of World War II. The famous Chinese curse "May you live in interesting times" could not be more apt. Whilst a new Prime Minister starts work in the UK, whilst the UK grepples with its exit from the EU and whilst the EU comes to terms with how to protect the Union, it is important that we do not lose sight of what is at stake for the security of our continent.

LONDON, 6 SEPTEMBER 2016

Screening of the 'Europe in crisis – a shattered haven' documentary

UK Parliament

The Henry Jackson Society held a film screening of the recently released documentary 'Europe in Crisis – A Shattered Haven' in the UK Parliament upon the kind invitation of Matthew Offord MP. The film looked at rising European extremism, and particularly Antisemitism, emanating from the far-right, the far-left and Islamist groups. It discussed the increasing fear of many Jews in Europe; driving huge numbers to emigrate to Israel, as well as the fact that far-right and Islamist hate groups actually thrive off one another. It also highlighted the fact that today hatred of Israel is a primary element of most manifestations of Antisemitism.





HELSINKI, 11 SEPTEMBER 2016

EJC joins in the celebration of the 110th Anniversary of the Helsinki Synagogue

An EJC delegation headed by its President Moshe Kantor including Executive members from across Europe and Presidents of Jewish communities from Scandinavian and Baltic countries joined in the celebration of the 110th anniversary of the Helsinki synagogue. Moshe Kantor addressed the ceremony alongside the Speaker of the Finnish Parliament Maria Lohela, the President of the Central Council of Jewish Communities in Finland, Yaron Nadbornik and the Chief Rabbi of Finland, Simon Livson. Distinguished members of the Jewish community of Helsinki and representatives of different faiths were among those present.

HELSINKI, 12 SEPTEMBER 2016

Enlarged Executive Committee meeting

The EJC held its Enlarged Executive Meeting in Helsinki where members of the Executive Committee were joined by their colleagues from Baltic and Scandinavian countries. EJC President Moshe Kantor gave an overview of the current challenges faced by European Jewish communities and presented the CEO of SACC by EJC, Ophir Revach, who delivered a report on the new entity's activities aiming at improving the security of Jewish communities in Europe. The meeting was followed by a lunch during which the Executive members had the pleasure to meet and exchange with several members of the Finnish Parliament. Moshe Kantor together with Raya Kalenova and Yaron Nadbornik met with the Finnish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Timo Soini.



TALLINN, 16-18 SEPTEMBER 2016

The 10th “Jahad” Forum of the Estonian Jewry

Raya Kalenova visited the Jewish community of Estonia and participated in the 10th Forum of Estonian Jewry “Jahad”. She delivered opening remarks on the first day of the Forum and took part in a panel discussion devoted to current challenges faced by European Jewish communities. Prior to joining in the “Jahad” Raya Kalenova toured all the community facilities and applauded the team of the Jewish Community of Estonia led by its long-time President Alla Jacobson on their remarkable and fruitful efforts in revitalising the Jewish communal life in the country.



VIENNA, 18 – 19 SEPTEMBER 2016

SACC by EJC opened its office in Vienna

The European Jewish Congress' Security and Crisis Center (SACC) opened its headquarters in Vienna with the attendance of over 70 security experts from 28 Jewish communities in Europe. The SACC trains and prepares Jewish communities to handle crisis and security management by coordinating all the various arms of the community – leadership, security, medical and psychological in crisis management teams. Due to the aggravation of the situation in Europe, the programme expanded into a new entity "SACC by EJC" that tackles now the security threats towards the European Jewish communities. At the opening of the new office, a two-day conference was held which provided the security experts from the Jewish communities training, expertise and information about the growing threats in parts of Europe.





PARIS, 21- 24 SEPTEMBER 2016

“Continuing the Dialogue: combating Antisemitism in Europe through legal and other means” Conference

‘Continuing the Dialogue: combating Antisemitism in Europe through legal and other means’ organised by the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists in collaboration with the European Jewish Fund and the Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry at Tel-Aviv University. Gilles Clavreul, Inter-Ministerial Delegate for the Fight against Antisemitism and Racism in France, Mr. Francis Kalifat, and President of the CRIF, Prof. Dina Porat, Kantor Center, were among the main guest speakers.



BRUSSELS, 27 SEPTEMBER 2016

“The Future of Jewish Communities in Europe” Conference

European Parliament

EJC together with the directors of its affiliated Jewish communities attended the conference entitled “The Future of the Jewish Communities in Europe” at the European Parliament (EP) hosted and attended by EP President Martin Schulz and EP Vice-President Antonio Tajani. Francis Kalifat, EJC Vice-President and President of the Representative Council of French Jewish Institutions (CRIF) and Abraham Lehrer, Vice-President of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, took part in the conference, speaking on the panels devoted to national patterns and the current situation on Antisemitism in Europe respectively. EJC Executive Vice-President Raya Kalenova urged Vice-President Tajani and Members of the Working Group on Antisemitism to draft a resolution as a follow-up to this important conference, condemning Antisemitism and anti-Zionism as well as adopting a working definition of Antisemitism.







BRUSSELS, 28 SEPTEMBER 2016

Meeting of directors of EJC's affiliated communities

EJC held the annual meeting of directors of its affiliated communities in Brussels. Directors and professionals from nineteen countries gathered in the EJC office to exchange best practices and to discuss how to approach specific challenges faced by European Jewish communities. Karen White, Senior Manager of Public Policy at Twitter conducted a training session on how to make an efficient use of the social media platform as a communication instrument. The participants also had a chance to engage in an open discussion on the policy of Twitter to combat antisemitic hate speech online. The CEO of SACC by EJC, Ophir Revach, delivered a presentation of the recently launched activities and tools aiming at improving the security and crisis management in Jewish communities in Europe.



LONDON, 9 NOVEMBER 2016

Kantor King Solomon School Renaming Ceremony

EJC attended and contributed to the organization of the renaming Ceremony of the Kantor King Solomon High School, a 940-pupil voluntary aided Jewish comprehensive school in North East London. Opened in 1993, the school is Modern Orthodox but it provides places for children from all faiths. At the renaming ceremony, Moshe Kantor, in whose honour the school is now named, spoke about the importance of “proper education for surviving and development, because of its unbreakable link to wisdom.” Moshe Kantor addressed an audience of distinguished guests, including H.E. Ambassador Mark Regev and Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, who both also spoke, Sir Mick and Lady Barbara Davis Gerald and Dame Gail Ronson, Board of Deputies President Jonathan Arkush, former UK Special Envoy to the Middle East Lord Michael Levy and former Board Presidents Vivian Wineman and Henry Grunwald.



BARCELONA, 13 – 14 NOVEMBER 2016

2nd European Jewish Communities Summit “Building Resilient Communities”

EJC in association with the European Council of Jewish Communities (ECJC) and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee co-organised and took an active part in the 2nd European Jewish Communities Summit “Building Resilient Communities”. In her opening remarks Raya Kalenova said: “European Jews today face new and distinct challenges. Antisemitism in all its new and mutating forms, and the physical threat to our communities and our institutions, are all too real and growing.” The conference was addressed by a number of high-profile speakers including Minister of Presidency of the Government of Catalonia Neus Munté and European Commission’s Coordinator on Combating Antisemitism Katharina von Schnurbein. The Summit’s discussions this year were focused on the following topics: developing relationships with local/national and EU authorities; dealing with the media before, during and after an attack; security in our communities: participative models and best practices.



BRUSSELS, 16 NOVEMBER 2016

European Parliament Working Group on Antisemitism

'Youth Voices: Challenges, Opportunities and an Uncertain Future'

The meeting of the European Parliament Working Group on Antisemitism (WGAS), organised by EJC in collaboration with B'nai B'rith International, was held under the chairmanship of MEP Juan Fernando Lopez Aguilar (S&D, Spain). The theme of the discussion was 'Youth Voices: Challenges, Opportunities and an Uncertain Future'. Benjamin Fischer, President of the European Union of Jewish Students, Josh Seitler, President of the Union of Jewish Students of the UK and Ireland, and Nethanel Cohen-Selal, representing the French Union of Jewish Students shared with Members of the European Parliament and other participants their experiences as young Jewish leaders as well as their expectations and concerns in light of the rising Antisemitism and anti-Zionism in schools and university campuses across Europe.



LONDON, 30 NOVEMBER 2016

Jewish News-BICOM Policy Conference

UK Parliament

Moshe Kantor addressed the 'BICOM Israel Policy Conference' on 'Countering extremism' alongside UK Home Secretary Amber Rudd MP in the UK Parliament. Kantor lauded the British Government's Counter-Extremism and Safeguarding Bill.

However, he also had words of caution for European leaders: "We are still waiting for the concrete steps that European democracies must take in this vital fight for their own survival. While we must respond firmly to those who seek our destruction, we must act just as decisively in depriving the terrorists of the means to spread their hateful messages on social media." Other speakers at the event included former US Middle East Envoy Ambassador Dennis Ross, Israeli Labour Party leader Isaac Herzog MK, Prime Minister Netanyahu's Special Envoy for Public Diplomacy and former Israeli Ambassador to the US Michael Oren MK, the Ambassador of Israel to the UK and former Spokesperson for PM Netanyahu Mark Regev, the Ambassador of Jordan to the UK Mazen Houmoud and Foreign Office Minister for the Middle East Tobias Ellwood MP.



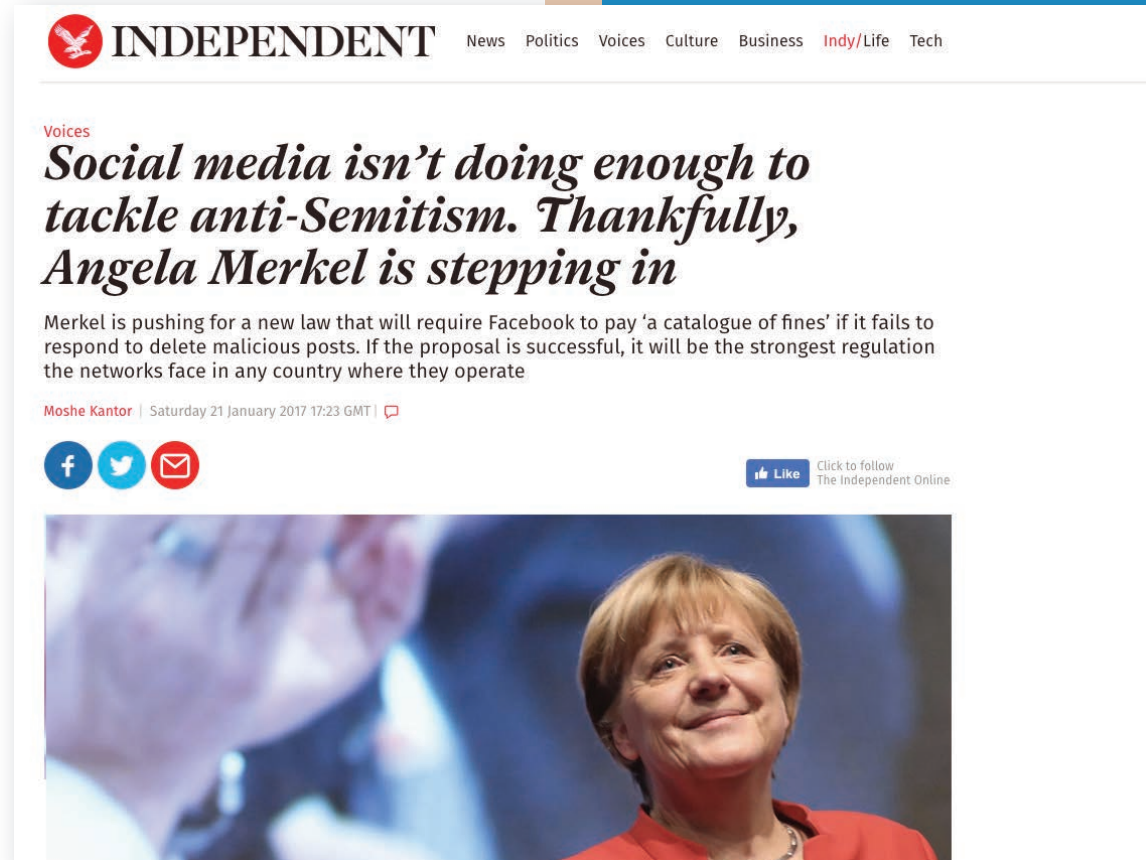
21 JANUARY 2017

Social media isn't doing enough to tackle anti-Semitism. Thankfully, Angela Merkel is stepping in

Independent

"Social media has made its way into almost every area of our lives, but much of it still operates outside limits that are set in the real world. Sadly our laws are insufficient to deal with online crime – and that includes hate speech. In Germany, Angela Merkel has responded to this danger by putting pressure on social media platforms to remove malicious posts from their web pages within 24 hours or face fines."

(Moshe Kantor)



BRUSSELS, 24 JANUARY 2017

General Assembly of the European Jewish Congress

EJC held its General Assembly in Brussels, which was attended by over 30 presidents and representatives of European Jewish communities. Moshe Kantor gave an overview of 2016 with its main challenges and successes for EJC and the Jewish communities. Kantor particularly mentioned the growth of Islamic terrorism and extremism, the rise of the far-right and the recent UNESCO resolutions, which were highly damaging for the Jewish people. Positive developments were discussed including the adoption of the Working Definition on Antisemitism by IHRA and the British Government as well as the development of the EJC Security and Crisis Management project (SACC by EJC). Issues such as communal security, Holocaust restitution, Brexit, re-implementation of the working definition on Antisemitism at the European Union level were among the topics on the agenda. A dinner was held with the participation of special guests of honour including the new Israeli Ambassador to the European Union and the first Israeli Ambassador to NATO, H.E. Ahron Leshno-Yaar, Israeli Ambassador to Belgium and Luxembourg, H.E. Simona Frankel among other Ambassadors, movie Director Andrey Konchalovsky, Members of the European Parliament, the European Commission Coordinator on Combating Antisemitism, Katharina von Schnurbein and other representatives of the European Commission.









BRUSSELS, 25 JANUARY 2017

International Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony

European Parliament

EJC in partnership with the newly elected President of the European Parliament Antonio Tajani organised the International Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony. The event was devoted to restoring identities of the victims of the Shoah and a short biography video of the German painter Felix Nussbaum, produced by EJC, was screened during the ceremony. Antonio Tajani opened the event, followed by an address by Moshe Kantor. UNESCO Ambassador for Holocaust Education Beate Klarsfeld and Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and ECTR Chairman Rt. Hon. Tony Blair were also among the speakers. During the ceremony, the “European Medal of Tolerance” was awarded to film director Andrei Konchalovsky for his cinematographic work against extremism and intolerance and especially for his latest Holocaust-drama ‘Paradise’. The ceremony featured a unique artistic performance by Maestro Vladimir Spivakov as soloist and conductor of the Moscow Virtuosi Orchestra. Holocaust survivors, EU leaders, Members of the European Parliament, Ambassadors, presidents of Jewish communities across Europe, religious leaders as well as renowned intellectuals attended the event.





Dr. Moshe Kantor,
EJC President



Mr. Antonio Tajani,
President of the European Parliament



Maestro Vladimir Spivakov (violin)



Danielle Akta (Cello)



Ms. Beate Klarsfeld,
UNESCO Honorary Ambassador and Special Advisor for Education
about the History of the Holocaust



Rt. Hon. Tony Blair,
Former UK Prime Minister and ECTR Chairman



ECTR Medal of Tolerance bestowed upon Mr. Andrei Konchalovsky



VATICAN, 27 JANUARY 2017

Meeting with Pope Francis on International Holocaust Remembrance Day

EJC delegation headed by its President Moshe Kantor met with His Holiness Pope Francis in the Vatican. Kantor said that he considers the audience a gesture of brotherhood towards every Jew. He praised the visit by the Pope to Auschwitz last year and commended him for his strong moral approach against terrorism and extremism. The Pope and EJC representatives also spoke about interfaith work and building bridges between the two communities. “We need a reaffirmation of the principles that bind the three great monotheistic religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam, about what unites us and say a strong no to violence and hate, and yes to tolerance and reconciliation.” Kantor said.





27 JANUARY 2017

The Telegraph

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News

Holocaust Memorial Day: Only eternal vigilance can prevent a return to the hatred of the 1930s

MOSHE KANTOR
PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN JEWISH CONGRESS

27 JANUARY 2017 • 11:34AM

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A Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration at York Minster CREDIT: DANIEL LAWSON/PA WIRE

Holocaust Memorial Day: Only eternal vigilance can prevent a return to the hatred of the 1930s

The Telegraph

“The Holocaust didn’t begin in the death camps. It began with words. It displayed the most destructive of human behaviour – indifference, ignorance and greed. The choices made by ordinary people contributed to the deaths of millions.”

(Moshe Kantor)

BRUSSELS, 21 MARCH 2017

Ambassadorial Conference of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs

European Parliament

EJC participated in the 'Ambassadorial Conference of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs' that took place in the European Parliament. The conference was organised for the Israeli Ambassadors in the EU Member States and was attended by Members of the European Parliament as well as representatives of Jewish and non-Jewish organisations working with the European Union institutions. The panelists shared with the Ambassadors their views and experiences related to the EU-Israel relations. Raya Kalenova addressed the gathering about the close links between EJC's affiliates, the Jewish communities of Europe, and the State of Israel as well as the work EJC is conducting at the EU level and the challenges European Jews are currently facing.



BRUSSELS, 27 MARCH 2017

Delegation for relations with Israel European Parliament



EJC represented by its Executive Vice-President Raya Kalenova took part in the joint event of the European Parliament Delegation for relations with Israel and the Delegation for relations with the United States. Raya Kalenova addressed the audience on 'Anti-Zionism and Antisemitism – a threat to Democracy' alongside the chairs of the delegations, MEP Fulvio Martusciello and MEP Christian Ehler as well as Charles Asher Small, Director for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy (ISGAP). Raya Kalenova reaffirmed the urgency of adopting a working definition on Antisemitism, exposed the dangerous political coalitions that take form in Europe and that use Antisemitism as part of their political message. She also spoke about the BDS movement explaining that BDS is about the destruction through economic and cultural strangulation of the Jewish state – the one Jewish state – and no other states. Members of the European Parliament, representatives of the Israeli Mission to the EU as well as of Jewish and non-Jewish organizations were present at the meeting.



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