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MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CALL FOR STRONGER ACTION AGAINST ANTISEMITISM AT ROUNDTABLE



Speakers call for greater transparency in public funding, better protection against online threats and a stronger role for education.

A roundtable entitled **“Three Years After October 7: Defunding Hate: EU Responsibility to End Support for Anti-Jewish Networks and Organisations”** was held at the European Parliament in Brussels on 13 October. Hosted by MEP Béatrice Timgren, the discussion brought together representatives of ESISC and IMPAC, as well as speakers working in education, law and interfaith dialogue.

European Strategic Intelligence and Security Center srl

Avenue Eugène Demolder 57, 1030 BRUXELLES

+ 32 478 288 812

esisc@esisc.org – claude.moniquet@esisc.org - www.esisc.org

Participants examined the rise of antisemitism in Europe since 7 October 2023 and discussed how European institutions can respond. Their discussion focused on three connected areas: ensuring that public funds are not used to support antisemitism or radicalisation; preventing antisemitic ideas from taking hold through education; and protecting Jewish individuals and communities from harassment, threats and calls for violence.

Béatrice Timgren, Member of the European Parliament and host of the roundtable, opened by reflecting on what she described as Europe's failure to learn the lessons of October 7. She criticised demonstrations in European cities that, she said, celebrated Hamas while Jewish victims received little sympathy. She also called for EU funding to be traced to final recipients, including subcontractors, and warned that accusations of Islamophobia should not deter scrutiny of Islamist organisations and their funding.

Béatrice Timgren, MEP: *“Three years after October 7, Europe has still not learned its lesson. After the horrors of the Second World War, we said, ‘Never again.’ But here we are again. The October 7 attack was the worst massacre of Jews since the Holocaust. When Jews were murdered, they could hardly find a single word of sympathy. Democracy doesn’t require us to finance its enemies. Tolerance doesn’t require surrender. Millions of European Muslims want safety, freedom, a better life and to become part of European society — not political Islam”.*

Participants called for faster action by online platforms and public authorities, better coordination across jurisdictions and effective support for those targeted. They stressed that no one should be subjected to harassment or threats because they are Jewish, and that calls for violence must not be allowed to circulate without a timely response.

The discussion also highlighted the need for greater transparency and accountability in the allocation of EU and member-state funding. Participants called for clear information about grant recipients and the purposes of funded activities, effective monitoring, and independent review where credible concerns arise. Any action, they stressed, should be evidence-based and consistent with European law and fundamental rights.

Patricia Teitelbaum, President of IMPAC, addressed the origins and funding of antisemitism and the measures the European Union could take to counter it: *“When Qatar and other Gulf sources have poured billions into Muslim Brotherhood-linked networks across Europe & US for more than 40 years — funding mosques, youth groups, media, NGOs and educational projects — we cannot be surprised that so many young Europeans now demonise Israel. In Belgium, the biased materials and one-sided narratives documented by IMPAC have shaped those attitudes in schools for more than 20 years”*

Education was identified as an essential part of a lasting response. Speakers discussed the importance of teaching Jewish history and identity, helping educators address contemporary

antisemitism, and enabling young people to understand the contribution of Jewish communities to European society.

Goel Jasper, Director of Communications at the Yael Foundation, spoke about education as a way of strengthening Jewish identity and countering antisemitism. He argued that young Jews should be supported in building confidence and recognising their ability to contribute positively to society:

“You cannot solve antisemitism merely by focusing on antisemitism. Antisemitism is a disease of the hater, not the hated. At our core, we believe the ultimate antidote to antisemitism is Pro-Semitism. Pro-Semitism is about building proud, confident, and capable Jews who know they have a tremendous opportunity to impact the world in a positive manner.

If we had spent centuries telling Jewish children how much certain elements in the world might hate them, or teaching them how to duck under a desk, or how to argue with a protester online, we would be building a defensive fortress, but ignoring the building required for our future.

At the Yael Foundation, we believe antisemitism is a disease of the hater, not the hated. It is an obsession of those who find purpose in the ruin of others. Why should Jewish children allow the dark obsessions of such people to define our self-identity?”

Claude Moniquet, Chief Executive Officer of the European Strategic Intelligence and Security Center (ESISC), gave an overview of antisemitism in Europe since 7 October.

On the consequences of inaction regarding antisemitism.

“Unless the response is firm and uncompromising, in 20 years’ time there will be nothing left in Europe but Jewish communities reduced to a bare minimum, comprising only the last few optimists, the oblivious, or those who are too old or too poor to leave”.

On the urgency of action

“Everyone must realise that it is five minutes to midnight. There is no longer time to confine ourselves to vague condemnations that have no effect on reality. On the contrary, it is time to act decisively”.

Alice Zarka, a lawyer at the Paris Bar, spoke about specific cases and the legal challenges posed by coordinated digital attacks: *“Such attacks can pursue several objectives, including damaging the economic interests and reputations of businesses and individuals, spreading hate speech, and destabilising democratic institutions. I would particularly like to draw attention to the way these techniques can be used to revive historical antisemitic stereotypes in a modern form. For instance, the longstanding prejudice that Jews control the banking system may now manifest itself through allegations of money laundering or corruption, accompanied by repeated references to the Jewish or Israeli identity of the individuals targeted.*

I would like to illustrate this phenomenon through the case of Uri Poliavich, an entrepreneur and co-founder of the Yael Foundation, an organisation dedicated to

promoting Jewish education worldwide. He has been targeted by a malicious online campaign involving, among other allegations, accusations of money laundering. To my knowledge, these accusations are not connected to any identified judicial proceedings and are not supported by any substantiated and independently verifiable evidence.

In my view, the existing French legal framework, particularly press law, legislation governing online harassment, and unfair competition law, remains insufficient to address the organised and cross-border nature of these attacks. I therefore believe that consideration should be given to introducing a specific criminal offence into the French Criminal Code to address this coordinated modus operandi and protect the societal values threatened by such operations”

Imam Hassen Chalghoumi, President of the Conference of Imams of France, discussed concerns about extremist ideologies, their influence in civil society and public institutions, and their connection to antisemitism: *“The Muslim Brotherhood exploits the victimization of young people, using their suffering to turn it into hatred; they operate behind the scenes and infiltrate the Muslim religious institutions”*

The roundtable concluded with a call for a coordinated European response that combines scrutiny of public funding, effective protection against online antisemitic harassment, legal accountability and sustained investment in education. Participants stressed that public institutions and online platforms must respond promptly when Jewish individuals or communities are targeted, and that European funding must be transparent and subject to meaningful oversight.

Cristian Terheş, Member of the European Parliament (ECR, Romania), addressed the use of European funds in Palestinian education and the Palestinian Authority’s payments to convicted terrorists and their families.

"Three years after the October 7 attacks, the largest massacre of Jews since the Holocaust, we must call things by their name. Europe promised itself this would never happen again, yet it has financed those who teach hatred of Jews. In schools run by the United Nations and paid for by European taxpayers, Palestinian children are taught to admire Dalal Mughrabi, who led the killing of 38 Israelis, 13 of them children. A child who learns the word ‘martyr’ in the first grade is not being educated for peace, but for hatred.

The antisemitism we see today on Europe’s streets and campuses does not appear out of nowhere. It is taught, it is rewarded, and too often it is funded. The Palestinian Authority told the world it had ended ‘pay for slay’. Yet the United States found it paid more than \$200 million to terrorists and their families in 2025 alone. You cannot reward murder and call it social assistance. Europe was built on Judeo-Christian foundations, on the sanctity of every human life, and funding those who glorify the murder of Jews betrays those



foundations. If we are serious about defunding hate, there must be not one more euro until the textbooks change and the payments end. That is what 'Never again' means."

Media Contact:

Claude Moniquet

Chief Executive Officer, European Strategic Intelligence and Security Center (ESISC)

Tel: +32 478 288 812 | Email: claudio.moniquet@esisc.org