



Presidency Statement

The Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU was pleased to hold the first International High-Level meeting reuniting Special Envoys for Combatting Antisemitism and the World Jewish Congress, representing all Jewish communities from around the world in Bucharest on **18 June 2019**.

The meeting was dedicated, first and foremost, to Jewish community representatives. A substantial debate was held between Jewish community representatives and Special Envoys in view of supporting the adoption of strategies for preventing and fighting Antisemitism, racism, xenophobia, radicalization and hate speech. Emphasis was placed on the exchange of best practices in countering Antisemitism, the role of education and memory in combatting Antisemitism, and practical measures for combatting Antisemitism, including the IHRA non-legally binding working definition of Antisemitism.

The conclusions of the meeting indicate that significant challenges remain to be tackled and extra measures should be envisaged in areas such as:

1. **Security of Jewish communities** - Public authorities (central and local) have a responsibility to ensure the security of the members of Jewish communities and institutions, and to support and protect the victims of antisemitic and hate crimes. That implies understanding the level of threat faced by the members of the Jewish communities and improve the dialogue and cooperation between them and the relevant authorities dealing with security, law enforcement and police;
2. **Endorsement of the non-legally binding working definition of Antisemitism adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance** will ensure guidance for education and training, including for law

enforcement authorities involved in identifying and investigating antisemitic attacks;

3. **Financing Holocaust research, education and remembrance** - is an efficient way to combat existing threats to the remembrance of the Holocaust, such as Holocaust denial and distortion, together with encouraging Academic research and protecting Academic freedom from undue interference. This can also be strengthened by promoting Holocaust education both in the curricula and through training programs dedicated to teachers and people working in law enforcement and the justice system. The adoption of codes of conduct aimed at discouraging discrimination and antisemitic behavior within University campuses should be equally encouraged.
4. **Recording and collecting hate crime data** – should be improved, including on combatting Antisemitism, through specialized continuous training programs for law enforcement and criminal justice authorities, together with providing support to civil society organizations that are involved in the collection of data regarding hate crime.

The Romanian Government declares its commitment to contribute and to support future international initiatives directed at tackling the challenges faced by the Jewish communities and values the activity of the European Commission Coordinator on Combatting Antisemitism.

The Romanian Presidency of the Council of the EU is honored to have been the host of the first international high-level meeting of Special Envoys and the World Jewish Congress and counts on the support of the international Jewish organizations for its future projects dedicated to combatting Antisemitism.