

Vienna Declaration on enhancing cooperation in fighting antisemitism and encouraging reporting of antisemitic incidents

Vienna, 18 May 2022

In the spirit of the Council declarations of 6 December 2018 and 2 December 2020 and the Council conclusions of 4 March 2022, we, the Special Envoys and Coordinators combating antisemitism and the members of the European Commission Working Group on the Implementation of the *EU Strategy on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life*, discuss what could be done to encourage and facilitate reporting and to improve recording of antisemitic incidents.

We note with strong concern that antisemitic hate speech and hate crime are widespread, in particular online, as confirmed by recent national, regional and EU reports.

We acknowledge existing practices in recording antisemitic incidents and take note of resources relevant to collecting data on antisemitism developed by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights.

We acknowledge key guiding principles on encouraging hate crime reporting and on improving the recording of hate crime by law enforcement authorities. The Working Group on hate crime reporting, recording and data collection developed these principles, which the EU high-level group on combating hate speech and hate crime endorsed.

We emphasise the need to improve hate crime recording and data collection; encourage victims to report hate crime; and to establish and strengthen cooperation between law enforcement agencies, Jewish communities and civil society organisations.

We agree to further promote the use of the IHRA non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism, which can serve as a basis to collect comparable data on antisemitic incidents including data that is below the criminal threshold.

We acknowledge the importance to foster bi- and multi-lateral cooperation as well as international cooperation.

We renew our commitment to meet the objectives of the *EU Strategy on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life (2021–2030)*. In line with the Council Conclusions of 4 March and the EU Strategy, we aim to develop a common methodology for quantifying and qualifying antisemitic incidents and comparing them over time and between Member States.

We agree to establish the *European Conference on Antisemitism*, which is an informal, open working group of like-minded Special Envoys and Coordinators combating antisemitism and Members of the European Commission Working Group on the Implementation of the *EU Strategy on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life*. The Task Force Austrian-Jewish Cultural Heritage in the Federal Chancellery of the Republic of Austria will coordinate the *European Conference on Antisemitism* until further notice.

We agree to regularly report to the European Commission Working Group on the Implementation of the *EU Strategy on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life*, and to continue cooperating with each other with regard to improving recording and encouraging reporting of antisemitism.

We agree to meet again in the format *European Conference on Antisemitism* in the first half of 2023 to assess progress in this regard.

We renew our determination to mainstream the fight against antisemitism in all its forms and to promote Jewish life in Europe in our work.