

Ms Ursula VON DER LEYEN

President of the European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels

CC Mr Magnus BRUNNER

Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration

25 August 2025

Dear President von der Leyen,

We, the undersigned, Jewish organisations and communities across Europe and beyond, write to express our unequivocal support and appreciation for Katharina von Schnurbein, the European Commission Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life, in light of recent unfounded and pernicious criticism.

Over the past decade, Ms. von Schnurbein has worked tirelessly and with great integrity to strengthen European policies and initiatives that protect Jewish communities and ensure that Jewish life can flourish across our continent. Her mandate has always been grounded in European values, democratic principles, and the urgent need to defend the Jewish community against hatred and discrimination.

Ms. von Schnurbein has pioneered innovative methods to mobilise governments and strengthen Jewish communities in the face of persistent antisemitic hostility and attacks.

The EU Strategy on combatting antisemitism and fostering Jewish life that she has spearheaded has been an unprecedented milestone in addressing the scourge of antisemitism.

She has brought the EU closer to small Jewish communities and organizations often disconnected from the policy process and has created transnational synergies and fora for engagement for civil society.

She has become not only a trusted advisor but also a model for governments and communities in North America and elsewhere, which now face similar challenges.

In all her work she has listened to the lived realities of Jewish communities, including the tsunami of Israel-related antisemitism that has swept throughout Europe and the world since Oct. 7 2023, which she has been steadfast in addressing.

It is therefore deeply troubling to see her accused of “bias” simply because she refuses to trivialize or ignore threats against Jews. To attack her for defending Jewish dignity and security is, in effect, to challenge the European Union’s own credibility in combating antisemitism.

Please be assured that both in her person and through her office, Ms. von Schnurbein has been a principled, thoughtful, and steadfast ally and friend to Jewish communities across Europe.

There are few, if any, who have shown the same level of commitment, insight, and effectiveness in this role. Her work on behalf of the European Commission has set a strong example—one that many other governments and envoys around the world have looked to as a model. What she has achieved over the past decade is both significant and unprecedented. We believe her leadership is essential, and we trust this will continue in the years ahead.

Signatories:

American Jewish Committee (AJC)

ADL (Anti-Defamation League)

B'nai B'rith International (BBI)

Conference of European Rabbis (CER)

Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations (COP)

European Jewish Congress (EJC)

European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS)

World Jewish Congress (WJC)

Representative Council of French Jewish Institutions (CRIF)

Central Council of Jews in Germany (Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland)

The Federation of Jewish Communities in Hungary (MAZSIHISZ)

Coordinating Committee of Belgian Jewish Organizations (CCOJB)

Organisation of Jewish Communities in the Netherlands (NIK)

Union of Italian Jewish Communities (UCEI)

Jewish Community of Vienna (IKG) / Israelitische Religionsgesellschaft (IRG)

Federation of Jewish Communities of Spain (FCJE)
Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic
Federation of Jewish Communities in Slovakia
The Federation of the Jewish Communities in Romania
Official Council of Swedish Jewish Communities
Central Council of Jewish Communities in Finland
Union of Jewish Religious Communities in Poland
The Jewish Representative Council of Ireland
Jewish Community of Luxembourg (Consistoire Israélite de Luxembourg)
Coordinating Committee of Jewish Communities in Croatia
Organization of the Jews in Bulgaria - Shalom
The Lithuanian Jewish (Litvak) Community
Council of Latvian Jewish Communities
Council of the Jewish Community of Estonia
Jewish Community of Slovenia
Lisbon Jewish Community (Comunidade Israelita de Lisboa)
Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities (SIG)
Federation of Jewish Communities in Serbia
Jewish Community in the Republic of North Macedonia
Jewish Community of Montenegro
Jewish Community in Denmark

Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM)
European Association for the Preservation and Promotion of Jewish Culture and Heritage (AEPJ)
European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ)
Central Israelite Religious Council in Bulgaria

Organization of Friends of Israel in Bulgaria- Negev

Federation of Zionists in Bulgaria

The Office of the American Jewish Committee in Bulgaria and North Macedonia

Paideia - the European Institute of Jewish Studies in Sweden

The Swedish Jewish Cultural College - Paideia Folkhögskola

The Central Europe Center for Research and Documentation (Centropa), Austria

Haver Srbija, Serbia

Osservatorio Antisemitismo, Italy

Central Welfare Board of Jews in Germany (ZWST)

Czulent Jewish Association, Poland

Community Security Trust (CST), UK

Competence Center for Antisemitism-Critical Education and Research (KOAS), Germany

Counseling Agency for Antisemitic Violence and Discrimination (OFEK e.V.), Germany

Bundesverband RIAS e.V. (Federal Association of Departments for Research and Information on Antisemitism), Germany

Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina

European Council of Jewish Communities (ECJC)

European Leadership Network (ELNET)

NES Noi Ebrei Socialisti

Gherush92 Committee for Human Rights

The Terezin Initiative Institute

Associazione di Amicizia Italila-Israele di Savona

Association of the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland

Jüdische Österreichische Hochschüler*innen (JÖH – Austrian Union of Jewish Students)

Union des Étudiants Juifs de Belgique (UEJB – Belgian Union of Jewish Students)

Jødisk Ungdom (JU - Danish Union of Jewish Students)

Juutalainen Opiskelijayhdistys (JOY – Finnish Union of Jewish Students)
Union des Étudiants Juifs de France (UEJF – French Union of Jewish Students)
Jüdische Studierendenunion Deutschland (JSUD – German Union of Jewish Students)
Jewish Youth of Greece (ENE)
Unione Giovani Ebrei d'Italia (UGEI – Italian Union of Jewish Students)
Jewish Youth of Portugal (JYP)
Slovak Union of Jewish Youth (SUJY)
Federación de Jóvenes Judíos en España (FEJJE – Spanish Union of Jewish Students)
Judiska Ungdomsförbundet i Sverige (JUS – Swedish Union of Jewish Students)
Dutch Union of Jewish Students (DUJS/IJAR)
Swiss Union of Jewish Students (SUJS)
The Norwegian Union of Jewish Youth (JUF)
Russian Union of Jewish Students (RUJS)
Czech Union of Jewish Youth (Česká unie židovské mládeže – ČUŽM)