

EN

E-000758/2026

Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(22.4.2026)

The Commission has been using the non-legally binding working definition of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition¹ since 2017 as a tool in recognising contemporary forms of antisemitism. The 2018 survey by the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) among Jewish Europeans shows that the examples in the definition reflect what the vast majority perceives as antisemitic². The Commission therefore considers the IHRA definition as the benchmark for promoting a rights-based and victim-centred approach to combating antisemitism³.

Member States endorsed the use of the IHRA definition in Council Conclusions on combating racism and antisemitism, adopted on 4 March 2022. The use of the IHRA definition is consistent with the EU Strategy on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life (2021-2030) and was reaffirmed by the Council in 2024⁴.

The IHRA definition does not limit freedom of expression as the examples of the definition clearly state that ‘criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic’. Antisemitic acts are criminal when they are so defined by law.

¹ <https://holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definition-antisemitism>.

² <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2018/experiences-and-perceptions-antisemitism-second-survey-discrimination-and-hate>.

³ The drafting of the original working definition took place under the umbrella of the European Union Monitoring Centre and in an OSCE context and included a variety of experts who continue to support the definition.

⁴ https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-14245-2024-INIT/en/pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com.