

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-002324/24
to the Commission
Matjaž Nemec (S&D)
(30 October 2024)**

Subject: Commission's policy on antisemitism and the IHRA working definition of antisemitism

In its activities tackling antisemitism, the Commission says it regards the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism as 'the benchmark' and cooperates with the Israeli Government, including in the EU-Israel High Level Seminar on combating racism, xenophobia and antisemitism.

1. In view of a recent study ⁽¹⁾ revealing that the Commission had misrepresented the results of a 2018 key survey by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) with regard to the IHRA definition of antisemitism, can the Commission confirm it will henceforth refrain from such misrepresentations, in line with its declared commitment to evidence-based policymaking, also when addressing the most recent FRA survey, published in July 2024?
2. Recalling an earlier statement by Commission Coordinator on combating antisemitism Katharina von Schnurbein, which denied that the EU is conditioning its funding based on the IHRA definition of antisemitism ⁽²⁾, can the Commission confirm it does not and will not apply any IHRA definition-based funding conditionality when granting and controlling EU funding?
3. How does the Commission address and counter the escalating political instrumentalisation of antisemitism by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and government ministers targeting, among others, the UN Secretary-General and UN human rights bodies, the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice?

Submitted: 30.10.2024

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(8 January 2025)**

The Commission stands firmly against antisemitism and regards all forms as equally pernicious.

The Commission is aware of the opinion presented in the European Middle East commissioned study referred to. However, the 2018 European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights' survey ⁽¹⁾ clearly shows that Holocaust-related statements are regarded by most respondents (95%) as antisemitic and Israel-related antisemitic comments are the most frequent form experienced online ⁽²⁾.

The non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) serves as a basis for the Commission's work ⁽³⁾, without this implying that the EU funding is conditional on using the IHRA definition of antisemitism.

The IHRA definition states that criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic.

The EU rejects accusations of antisemitism against the United Nations (UN) system. In its conclusions of October 2024, the European Council stressed the essential role of the UN and its agencies, and affirmed its full and unwavering support to the UN Secretary-General.

The EU is a firm supporter of the UN and all of its entities, including the International Court of Justice, and all other bodies that uphold the rules-based international order, such as the International Criminal Court.

¹ European Middle East Project, 'Does the IHRA working definition of antisemitism reflect the views of most European Jews? An assessment of the evidence from the 2018 survey of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)', July 2024, <https://archive.jpr.org.uk/object-4216>.

² <https://x.com/kschnurbein/status/1600847328449277952>.

⁽¹⁾ <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2018/experiences-and-perceptions-antisemitism-second-survey-discrimination-and-hate>, p. 25.

⁽²⁾ This corresponds to examples 4, 5 and 10 of the IHRA definition — <https://holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definition-antisemitism>

⁽³⁾ 25 EU Member States and several regional state authorities and civil society organisations use it.