

## COUNCIL OF EUROPE NEWS



### Europe still haunted by antisemitism

“More than 70 years after the Holocaust, antisemitism is growing in Europe. While official statistics are missing in many countries, research shows that deeply ingrained hostility continues to threaten Jewish people’s security and human dignity across Europe”, says Nils Muižnieks, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, in his latest Human Rights Comment published today.

Today’s antisemitism finds its way into “traditional” as well as modern venues. Just over a year ago, a call in the Hungarian parliament for making lists of Jews who “posed a threat to national security” brought back haunting memories of Nazi policies. In December the Romanian authorities fined a public television channel in Romania after it aired a Christmas carol with antisemitic lyrics. However, more “contemporary” manifestations of antisemitism also abound. Last July, Twitter provided the prosecutors in Paris with data that may enable the identification of users who posted antisemitic messages on line. The French authorities also recently took a strong stand against incitement to hatred targeting Jewish people by a former comedian turned militant. A growing problem in many European countries is the use of antisemitic chants or salutes at football games. [\(continue reading\)](#).

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION NEWS



### Citizens require efficient and accessible protection against data protection violations

People across the EU have become victims of data protection violations brought on by the widespread use of information and communication technologies by public and private bodies. Web-based activities, direct marketing, and video surveillance account for most data protection violations.

The latest report from the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), ‘[Access to data protection remedies in EU Member States](#)’, reveals victims’ lack of understanding and awareness about data protection and the authorities that serve to help them. The report findings also underline the urgent need for the EU’s reformed data protection rules to come into effect.



### Remembering the Holocaust means it is time to act now

On 27 January we mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the day on which the concentration camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated. On this day we honour the memory of all those who were so brutally murdered by the Nazi regime.

Antisemitism is still a harsh reality in Europe. Some of it is outspoken and violent, but it is often far more subtle and quietly accepted. In order to move on, anti-Jewish prejudice must be addressed more firmly at every level of society, and we should all condemn antisemitism wherever we meet it.”

FRA’s recent report on discrimination and hate crime against Jews in the EU, which was based on a survey of Jewish communities experiences and perceptions in eight Member States, demonstrates that antisemitism is still very much a problem, and one that cannot be ignored.

- 66% of respondents said that antisemitism was a problem in their countries.
- 76% said that antisemitism had increased over the last five years.
- 59% said that antisemitism in the media was a big problem, with the figure rising to above 70% in some countries.
- 46% worry about becoming a victim of antisemitic verbal insult or harassment, while 33% worry they may be physically attacked.



### Your vote for 2014

If you are old enough to vote don't miss the chance to have your voice heard. Cast your vote at the European Parliament Elections!

In the week of 22 and 25 May 2014 you have the opportunity to influence the political future of the European Union by giving your contribution to elect the 751 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) for the next five years. Make you sure you check when the exact election day in your country is!

The 2014 European elections are different than the last because they are the first elections since the Lisbon Treaty of 2009 gave the European Parliament a number of important new powers. For example, when the EU member states nominate the next president of the European Commission in 2014, they will have to take account of the European election results. This means voters now have a clear say in who takes over the presidency.