



Session I.a: Stepping-up action to prevent and combat antisemitic and anti-Muslim hate crimes

Discussions in the session will look into trends of antisemitic and anti-Muslim hate crimes in the European Union and examine their underlying reasons, their impact and the challenges they entail. The session will offer an in-depth reflection on the most relevant actions to effectively prevent and combat hate crimes. Building on discussions during Day one, which would have looked at the extent to which antisemitic and anti-Muslim hate crimes require specific or common responses, this session will focus on the specific response and actions expected by the various actors, and how cooperation between EU institutions, Member States and other key stakeholders, such as international organisations and civil society, can be strengthened.

In this context, aspects related to prevention and how to best address security concerns of the communities and the societal impact of the phenomena will be looked at. Discussions will also shed light on how to best ensure the effective implementation of relevant criminal legislation and the extent to which alternative sanctions could accompany repressive responses. The session will also look at possibilities to better address underreporting and improve the protection of victims of hate crimes, as well as the collection and sharing of data.

Indicative questions to steer the discussions:

- 1 – To what extent do you think that the rise of political extremism and populism on the one hand and of violent religious extremism on the other hand, play a role in fuelling or exacerbating hate sentiments? Which are the best preventive measures to counter hate crimes related to extremist and radicalised behaviours?
- 2 – Beyond security measures, which are necessary to ensure the security of Jewish people and sites, how can the feeling of security of Jewish communities in European States be improved? How can coordination of all efforts at local, national and EU level be better ensured in this respect?
- 3 – How do you think the debate on radicalisation has impacted on Islamophobic behaviours and incidents? What are in your opinion the most effective tools to counter misleading generalisations and negative perceptions?
- 4 – What are the main challenges and gaps in effectively combatting racist, antisemitic and islamophobic crime in terms of criminal legislation and its implementation? Which are the priority areas to be addressed to overcome these challenges and how do you think the EU could facilitate this? Do you think that less repressive alternative sanctions can be of use when it comes to combating hate crimes, and in particular antisemitic and anti-Muslim hate crimes?
- 5 – How do you think underreporting of hate crimes and the lack of trust in the authorities and the justice system can be best addressed? Which are in your opinion the specific needs of victims of hate crimes, and in particular antisemitic and anti-Muslim hate crimes, also taking into account the situation of certain categories which appear particularly vulnerable?
- 6 – Which are the main gaps in the existing monitoring of and collection of data on hate crimes, and in particular antisemitic and anti-Muslim hate crimes, and in the sharing of such data across all actors involved? How do you think these gaps could be addressed and what could be the role of the EU in this context?