

Presenter: Michael Whine, EU Commission against Racism and Intolerance

Title: “**Combating antisemitism through international action: how effective has it been?**”

Panel: Contemporary History

Since 2004, European states have put in place a series of international agreements designed to protect Jewish communities against the rise in antisemitism. More recently they have also agreed programmes to enhance Jewish communities’ security. These initiatives have come about because states, and the intergovernmental organisations through which they seek to cooperate, have come to the realisation that not only has antisemitism risen once again but that it now comes from different directions. Moreover, states’ authorities now recognise the threat of specifically directed anti-Jewish terrorism which they need to combat.

The agreements include the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe Berlin and Basle Ministerial Council Declarations, the ECRI General Policy Recommendation on Antisemitism and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Resolution on Antisemitism. In turn, these were amplified and instrumentalised by the OSCE Cordoba Ministerial Council Decision, the European Parliament Working Group on Antisemitism, the EU Council Framework Decision on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia, the EC Code of Conduct on Countering Illegal Hate Speech Online, the OSCE Words into Action programme, among others.

They have been further supported by other agreements of a wider and more general nature, and by European and domestic court judgements against promoters of antisemitic incitement and Holocaust denial.

In doing so, governments and the IGOs have recognised their responsibilities towards their Jewish citizens amid the changing nature of anti-Jewish threats and discourse.

Despite these agreements, antisemitism remains a major concern to Jewish communities constituting a threat to the continued existence of some of them.

My paper will analyse these developments and argue for continued engagement with the international and national authorities.