

Presse release
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Support from the Jonathas Institute for Katharina von Schnurbein, European Coordinator on combating Antisemitism Antisemitism taken to the absurd

The Jonathas Institute expresses its full support for Katharina von Schnurbein, **European Commission Coordinator on combating antisemitism** and fostering Jewish life, who has been unfairly targeted by a political smear campaign led by a handful of MEPs.

This attack, far from being based on reasoned criticism, reveals that Ms von Schnurbein is carrying out the mandate entrusted to her with rigour and courage: to identify, name and combat contemporary forms of antisemitism, including when they hide behind virulent, obsessive and supposedly virtuous anti-Zionism.

By denouncing the trivialisation of anti-Semitic hatred in certain far-left activist circles – such as those linked to La France Insoumise or the Belgian Labour Party – **Ms von Schnurbein has highlighted a disturbing reality that explains the vigorous and feigned indignation of those targeted.**

In this context, it is essential to **recall the importance of the working definition of antisemitism adopted by the IHRA** (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance). This definition, supported by a large majority of European Union member states, clearly distinguishes between legitimate criticism of the policies of the State of Israel and hate speech against Jews. It also recalls that antisemitism is based on a logic of suspicion and conspiracy, which targets not only Jews, but also anyone perceived as an ‘ally’ or ‘subservient’ to them — including European leaders. **In this respect, Ms von Schnurbein is clearly a victim of antisemitism.**

What is more, accusing Ms von Schnurbein of single-handedly influencing the European Union's Middle East policy is not only disingenuous but also a dangerous conspiracy theory. The EU's diplomatic and geopolitical decisions are independent of a role whose mandate is clear: to prevent and combat antisemitism in all its forms.

The Jonathas Institute calls on the European institutions to firmly defend the exemplary work of Katharina von Schnurbein. The fight against anti-Semitism requires courage, clarity and a rigorous definition of its manifestations. It must not be weakened by those who, consciously or unconsciously, contribute to blurring the lines between political criticism and anti-Semitic hatred.

Created in March 2024 following the massacres of 7 October and their repercussions in Europe, the Jonathas Institute is a centre for study and action against anti-Semitism and everything that promotes it in Belgium.

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