

Ms. Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission

Brussels
4th February 2025

RE: Lack of response to letter to the European Commission's Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life

Dear Ms. Von Der Leyen, I am writing you regarding the lack of response from the European Commission's *Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life*, Ms. Katharina von Schnurbein, to my letter of 23rd January (enclosed with this letter).

I am surprised that I as a Member of the European Parliament does not receive a reply to my letter or even an acknowledgement of receipt of it, especially when it relates to the official points of view of the European Commission and the European Union.

Considering that Ms. Schnurbein's work in the end fall under your responsibility, I therefore now address you instead, both via this letter, as well as in the form of an official Parliamentary Question, which will be submitted on the same topic:

On 20th January, Elon Musk, Tesla CEO and advisor to the 47th President of the United States, performed what is widely regarded as a Nazi salute, not once but twice, to a worldwide audience of millions of people.

Considering the growing problems with misinformation and hate speech on Mr. Musk's social media platform, and bearing in mind his growing direct interventions in European politics, such a gesture should not be ignored or taken lightly. Part of the seriousness of the situation, it the fact that regardless of any bad excuses from third parties, the gestures were generally perceived in one way.

As the German news outlet Zeit put it the following day: [Ein Hitlergruß ist ein Hitlergruß ist ein Hitlergruß](#)¹. Add to this Ruth Ben-Ghiat, history professor at New York University, [who said](#): "It was a Nazi salute and a very belligerent one too."² Israeli newspaper [Haaretz described it](#) as a "fascist salute most commonly associated with Nazi Germany"³ while [Jewish leaders across Europe have decried the incident](#) as highly disconcerting.⁴

So, what reaction does the European Commission have to the gesture of Mr. Musk, and will you not agree that it needs addressing in general and even more considering his intention to try to influence anything from national elections to [committee procedures in the European Parliament](#)⁵?

¹ [Ein Hitlergruß ist ein Hitlergruß ist ein Hitlergruß](#)

² <https://x.com/ruthbenghiat/status/1881460628164120641>

³ <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/haaretz-today/2025-01-21/ty-article/.highlight/musks-fascist-salute-u-s-jewish-establishment-failed-its-first-test-with-trump-2-0/00000194-89d8-dee1-aff7-ebdf08660000>

⁴ <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2025/jan/21/the-gesture-speaks-for-itself-germans-divided-over-musks-apparent-nazi-salute>

⁵ [committee procedures in the European Parliament](#)

Will you, on behalf of the European Commission clearly and in no uncertain terms condemn Elon Musk's hateful and unacceptable act?

As long as our EU leaders and senior officials remain silent against this extremism, the Jewish, Muslim, immigrant, LGBTQ+ communities, and other minorities have every reason to be concerned that those in power will not defend their freedoms, while men like Musk threaten their way of life.

I remind you as well, that Mr. Musk has a long history of endorsing and spreading anti-Semitic, white supremacist and far-right statements and actions. Unfortunately, due to his economic power and his ownership of social media platform, Elon Musk has significant influence in European affairs.

Kind Regards and looking forward to your reply

MEP Per Clausen