

To:
Magnus Brunner, Commissioner for Home Affairs

cc:
Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission
Kaja Kallas, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Michael McGrath, Commissioner for Democracy, Justice, the Rule of Law
Hadja Lahbib, Commissioner for Equality, Preparedness and Crisis Management
Dubravka Šuica, Commissioner for the Mediterranean

Brussels, 16 July 2025

Dear Commissioner Brunner,

We are writing to you as Members of the European Parliament committed to both peace and human rights in the Middle East and to the fight against antisemitism and all forms of racism. We consider these priorities as interlinked parts of one and the same broader effort to advance peaceful, just and prosperous societies, both within the EU and globally.

We fully support the priority that the European Commission assigns to the fight against antisemitism and were pleased to see this commitment reflected in your mission letter from President von der Leyen. This shows the shared dedication by the Commission to this fight.

Against this backdrop, we would like to raise our utmost concerns about a [recently leaked document](#), which reveals several extremely problematic statements by the EU coordinator for combating antisemitism, Ms Katharina von Schnurbein. We believe these statements severely harm the EU's fight against antisemitism, and have the potential to damage the reputation of the Commission as a whole as a credible actor in this fight, in case no decisive action is taken.

In particular, we consider the following statements, as summarized by a meeting report of the EU Delegation to Israel, to be extremely problematic:

- *"KVS warned against the risk that review of the Association Agreement is based on "rumours about Jews", as opposed to facts."* - The review was requested by a majority of Member States and performed by the European External Action Service based on findings by OHCHR, OCHA and the ICJ. Insinuating that facts established by these institutions about Israel's actions could be "rumours about Jews" is wrong, dangerous and unacceptable;

- *“KVS warned against new forms of antisemitism, which she described as “ambient antisemitism”, i.e. creating an atmosphere in which Jews feel uncomfortable, even in European Institutions, noting, for instance, the “bake sales for Gaza” - Framing of EU staff expressions of humanity and solidarity as fuelling antisemitism is smearing dedicated EU officials and empties the term antisemitism of meaning, undermining the fight against it;*
- *KVS challenged some reports by the UN on the humanitarian situation in Gaza, such as a statement by WFP warning of a humanitarian crisis already on October 8, 2023.”*
 - This denies the credibility of a UN organization and disregards the immediate severe humanitarian impact of the Israeli offensive right after October 7, including mass displacement and a complete blockade of the Gaza Strip;
- *“why already 2-3 days after October 7 we started mentioning IHL, before Israel had undertaken any operation in Gaza.”* - Opposing mentions of international humanitarian law goes against all the values and principles that the EU is built on. It also disregards thousands of civilians killed or injured in the very first days of Israeli airstrikes amid alarming statements by Israeli officials announcing an indiscriminate approach.
- *“Noting how the first anti-IL protests in Europe began already on October 7 2023, KVS shared with HoMs the suspicion that Hamas or other extremist groups were behind those.”* - This is insulting to the hundreds of thousands of peacefully protesting European citizens, and is in no way factually substantiated.

We would also like to point to a recent abhorrent [social media statement](#), reposted by Ms von Schnurbein, in which a comparison was made between Greta Thunberg and Holocaust denial.

We consider that the aforementioned statements fall far outside the mandate of the EU antisemitism coordinator, and are undermining it. They are particularly problematic coming in a global context where legitimate criticism of the state of Israel is increasingly being obfuscated with antisemitism, a dynamic severely harming the fight against actual antisemitism.

In light of the statements above, as the Commissioner assuming political responsibility for Ms von Schnurbein’s portfolio and mandate, we would therefore ask you, (1) in what capacity did Ms von Schnurbein make these statements, (2) if they reflect the position of the European Commission, and (3) if they are in line with the code of conduct for EC officials and the mandate of the antisemitism coordinator? If not, we ask whether the Commission intends to take disciplinary action.

Moreover, we believe that Ms von Schnurbein’s reputation has been so gravely compromised by these revelations that we must call for her immediate replacement. We do not make this call lightly, but we firmly hold that the fight against antisemitism requires a dedicated and credible coordinator whose conduct is beyond reproach.

We conclude by signalling our willingness to engage with you jointly in this fight, and invite you for an exchange on how to effectively address antisemitism and hatred in our societies.

We thank you for your attention to this matter and look forward to receiving your response.

Yours Sincerely,

Tineke Strik, Greens/EFA
Thijs Reuten, S&D
Catarina Vieira, Greens/EFA
Barry Andrews, Renew
Matjaž Nemeč, S&D
Rima Hassan, The Left
Irena Joveva, Renew
Cecilia Strada, S&D
Leoluca Orlando, Greens/EFA
Lynn Boylan, The Left
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