



FRA Press Release
Vienna, 30 April 2019

Fighting antisemitism in Austria – working together to reverse worrying trends

Karoline Edtstadler, State Secretary at the Austrian Ministry of the Interior, and Ariel Muzicant, Vice-President of the European Jewish Congress, will speak at an event in Vienna on 30 April which addresses antisemitism in Austria.

As the Jewish community in Austria reports growing concerns about the rise of antisemitism, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) is bringing together national and EU policymakers, Jewish community organisations and civil society at an event in its premises in Vienna on 30 April to discuss how to combat this worrying trend.

Recent research among Europe's Jewish community, published by FRA in December 2018, shows that across the EU people reported that antisemitism was on the rise.

In Austria specifically, the research shows that:

- More than 7 in 10 people (73 %) considered antisemitism a 'big' or 'very big' problem.
- 75 % of the respondents consider antisemitism has increased over the past 5 years.
- The same proportion believes that the Austrian government's efforts to combat antisemitism are not effective. Meanwhile, nearly two thirds (64 %) positively assess the government's efforts to ensure their security needs.
- Two thirds of Austrian Jews (67 %) who might sometimes wear, carry or display items that could identify them as Jewish now choose to avoid doing so.
- The Austrian Jewish community is less aware of laws forbidding discrimination based on ethnic origin or religion than the average of the 12 EU countries surveyed (78 % awareness in Austria compared to an average of 87% in the countries surveyed).

The three specific topics which will be addressed at the meeting include the security needs of Jewish communities; rethinking Holocaust remembrance and education; and improving data collection on antisemitism.

Chaired by Dr Peter Kostelka, the Austrian member of FRA's Management Board, and opened by FRA's Director, Michael O' Flaherty, the meeting will hear keynote addresses in German from:

- **Karoline Edtstadler**, State Secretary at the Ministry of the Interior, Austria
- **Ariel Muzicant**, Vice-President, European Jewish Congress

Jörg Wojahn, Representative of the European Commission in Austria, will also give a presentation on the European Commission's actions to fight antisemitism.

"The Fundamental Rights Agency's survey on antisemitism in the EU shows that not only has it become normalised, but that it is getting worse. Only by working together to combat this highly disturbing trend can we achieve our aim of promoting and protecting the human rights of the Jewish community," says Michael O'Flaherty, FRA's Director.

"It is shocking to note that antisemitism not only persists in Europe after the Holocaust, but is even rising. It is our task to actively support Jewish life in our country and fight against any form of antisemitism. In Austria and Europe, there must not be any room for antisemitism. We will therefore target the youth and make the fight against antisemitism a topic in schools and education," emphasises State Secretary Karoline Edtstadler.

The roundtable discussions will take place under the Chatham House Rule.

For more information: media@fra.europa.eu / Tel: + 43 1 58030 642

Notes for the media:

FRA released its survey on [Experiences and perceptions of antisemitism](#) in December 2018. It covered 12 EU Member States and surveyed 16,500 individuals.

The discussions will also take into account the [Council Declaration on the fight against antisemitism](#) of December 2018.

A recent [Eurobarometer survey on perceptions of antisemitism](#) showed that 68 % of Europeans feel that people are not well informed about the history, practices and customs of Jewish people.