

Dear MEP Agnes Hankis,

We are writing to you on behalf of the European Jewish Congress, the democratically elected body representing 42 European Jewish communities. Amongst many of our working objectives we essentially give a unified voice to Jewish communities around Europe, representing their common interests and concerns.

We have previously contacted many members of the LIBE committee in relation to the repeated verbal and physical attacks faced by the Jewish community in Hungary. We are particularly worried by the continued expression of anti-Semitic statements by Jobbik members in the Hungarian parliament and other public forum.

Initially the references to “anti-Semitic and anti-Roma discourse” in MEP Rui Tavares’ final draft report on Hungary were not elaborated on enough in light of the severity of the incidents on the ground. We decided therefore to suggest an amendment.

Our proposed amendments were discussed with the rapporteur as well as during the last Informal Working Group meeting on anti-Semitism on May 7. MEP Claude Moraes, Chair of the group, circulated the proposed amendments.

Overall the Socialist group accepted the amendments proposed except for 3 words (see attached). The EJC removed these 3 words in light of their concern and in order to secure adoption of the amendment by the group.

We have received the continuous support from LIBE committee Chair MEP Juan Fernando Lopez Aguilar, Vice-Chair Sophia in ’t Veld and other MEP’s: Hannu Takkula, Claude Moraes, Baroness Sarah Ludford, Josef Weidenholzer, Celia Wikstrom, Sari Essayah and Boris Zala.

We need your support, not only as a member of the LIBE committee, in voting for, approving and adopting these amendments but also in convincing your group as a whole on the necessity of integrating these amendments to the report.

Should you require any other information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

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