

Dear Ms Woitchik, Dear Ms Turkov,

Thank you for your email. Let me assure you that I find it imperative to do our very best in order to protect the security, rights, and human dignity of the Jewish communities and each Jewish citizen in the same manner as any other minority and citizen deserves it as well.

It is indeed a very sad fact that extreme right political formations and groups posing a direct threat to Jewish or Roma minorities are present in almost every country of Europe. The current Hungarian Government and Prime Minister Viktor Orbán made it clear several times that any form of racism, any manifestation of antisemitism must be condemned and rejected. Furthermore the Hungarian Government guarantees the protection of the Hungarian Jewry in case of any kind of atrocity or action targeting its dignity. In a recent interview to Israeli newspaper *Yedioth Ahronoth* the Hungarian Prime Minister underlined that the political views of Jobbik are utterly unacceptable and thereby rejected the possibility of any kind of dialogue let alone cooperation with the extreme right formation.

Nevertheless, I find it inequitable and deeply blameworthy that the Hungarian post communist left has accused its political rivals on the moderate right with antisemitism during the last two decades in order to discredit them and to seize power.

The left wing's unscrupulous campaign is reflected in the entire Tavares report as well. This is the reason why I decided not to submit any amendments, which would have necessarily legitimated report as a whole. The amendments I did submit, you can see below.

I find it outrageous that political actors manipulate and exploit Jewish communities and organizations as tools in their political game. Believe me, the unfounded accusations do more harm to the Hungarian Jews than those factual and repugnant antisemitic manifestations which are condemned and despised by any benign Hungarian citizen.

Albert Einstein wrote that "communism is a nameless Jewish tragedy" (cited by one of my masters, Martin Buber, the famous Jewish philosopher). I think that the people of faith, tradition and spirituality have to shake off the heritage of communism and post communism as well.

Dear Ms Woitchik, Dear Ms Turkov, you can count on me if help is needed for the protection of the security, human dignity or cultural values of the Hungarian Jewry! However, I cannot offer my support to any biased and one-sided action – such as the Tavares report – which basically serves as the start of the political campaign for the European left.

I would be glad to make my views more clear by attaching two letters linked to this very same issue for your kind attention. Attached you will find some of the draft and all the final amendments I tabled to the Tavares report. It would be an honour if you could read them.

I stay at your disposal in writing or during a meeting in order to answer further questions should you have any concerning the situation in Hungary.

Yours sincerely,

MEP Ágnes Hankiss