

“Antisemitism has no political affiliation” says EU Jewish Heads about European Election Results.

“The dangerous and irresponsible role that some groups play in the labelling of political movements as antisemitic, purely in accordance to their own political interests, is destructive, does a massive disservice to Jewry,” say Rabbis Margolin and Jacobs.

As Europe woke up on Wednesday morning to a different European Parliamentary landscape, the Chairman of the European Jewish Association, Rabbi Menachem Margolin and Head of Governmental relations for the Rabbinical Centre of Europe Chief Rabbi Binyomin Jacobs (Netherlands), issued a joint statement that said antisemitism has to be condemned and fought by itself, regardless of political affiliation.

The heads, whose organisations are the largest federation of Jews in Europe and represent hundreds of communities across the continent said,

“The picture, much like the diverse countries that make up the European Union, is a mixed and confused one. What is clear however is that European Jewry finds itself in the same position that it was in last week. The elections might represent a changing of the guard, but the threat of antisemitism is still here.

“Just as every rightist is not a fascist or a Nazi, and just as every leftist is not communist or a Stalinist. Antisemitism has no political affiliation. Not every left-wing legitimate criticism of the state of Israel is anti-Semitism just like not every European national movement is anti-Jewish. There are no facile truths. Antisemitism seeps and infects every part of the political spectrum.

“Over history this primitive doctrine has wormed its way into the minds of both left and right wingers, to republicans and monarchists alike - antisemitism stood by itself and it has to be condemned and fought by itself, regardless to any political affiliation.

“What is particularly troubling is the use of the battle against antisemitism as a political tool. This represents one of the most cynical tricks in the history of modern politics and therefore has to be stopped. It does great damage to the cause of the international battle against the real anti-Semitism by attempting to transfer it from a mainstream topic to a partisan one. Antisemitism doesn’t just happen ‘over there’ on the political fringes.

“The dangerous and irresponsible role that some groups play in the labeling of political movements as antisemitic, purely in accordance to their own political interests, is destructive, does a massive disservice to Jewry as a whole, lessens the impact of concrete and real cases of antisemitism is to be utterly condemned. We cannot and must not ever become like the child that cried wolf when it comes to antisemitism.”

“Those who really care about fighting antisemitism should join hands, rightists and leftists alike, in monitoring every single politician’s words and actions. Words and actions alone should be the only barometer for antisemitism. This is how we will approach the new political mandate.” Ends

For further information please contact : EJA press office 0032 (0)476 056 450