

**Question for written answer E-002325/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Rise of antisemitism and hate speech in Bulgaria

In recent years, Bulgaria has experienced a disturbing surge in public hate speech and antisemitism. This trend has been exacerbated by the pretext of freedom of expression, as populist factions persistently exploit this right in order to undermine tolerance and foster a climate of hostility. The rise in hate speech has been the cause of great concern and fears of the normalisation of antisemitic rhetoric and behaviour. The most recent examples are a former minister of Jewish origin being called a traitor and a photo collage shared in the Telegram group of the Revival Party depicting another former minister of Jewish origin, known for holding pro-Euro-Atlantic views, with the accompanying text suggesting releasing gas on him for opposing Russian gas.

1. What measures is the Commission taking to tackle hate speech by public figures provided with high-profile platforms and who have a consistent record of antisemitic and anti-minority statements?
2. Have all the measures envisaged by Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA with regard to public incitement to violence or hatred been effectively employed?
3. Under the first EU Strategy on Combating Antisemitism, Member States committed to preventing and fighting antisemitism through national strategies, measures and action plans. How will the Commission ensure that antisemitism is curbed offline and online, and how will it provide protection from antisemitism in public spaces, as pledged?

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