

Birou
Parlamentar



Deputat
Aurel Vainer

Blvd. Regina Elisabeta nr. 63, sc. C, et. 6, ap. 23, Sector 5, 050015, Bucuresti
www.aurelvainer.ro | aurel.vainer@cdep.ro

+40.742.233.573 mob +40.21.314.77.44 tel
+40.21.313.10.28 fax

Informare privind participarea Deputatului Aurel Vainer,

la Adunarea Plenară a Congresului Mondial Evreiesc

(5-7 mai 2013, Budapesta, Ungaria)

În baza invitației personale primite din partea Domnului Ambasador Ronald S. Lauder, Președinte al Congresului Mondial Evreiesc (WJC) și a aprobării Biroului Permanent al Camerei Deputaților, am participat la Adunarea Plenară a Congresului Mondial Evreiesc.

- Cea de-a 14-a Adunare Plenară a Congresului Mondial Evreiesc s-a desfășurat în perioada 5-7 mai la Budapesta, reunind peste 500 de delegați și observatori, din partea a peste 100 de comunități și organizații evreiești din toată lumea.

Parlamentul României și Federația Comunităților Evreiești din România au fost reprezentate de Deputat Aurel Vainer – Președinte al FCER.

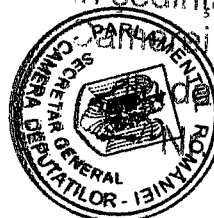
Întrunindu-se o dată la 4 ani, Adunarea Generală a WJC a dezbătut probleme dificile precum combaterea antisemitismului și a formațiunilor politice neonaziste, combaterea negaționismului și educația privind Holocaustul, anti-israelismul ca o nouă formă de antisemitism, dialogul inter-cultural ca antidot împotriva fanatismului religios generator de violență.

Pentru prima dată, după o perioadă extinsă de timp, Congresul Mondial Evreiesc nu s-a mai reunit la Ierusalim, ci la Budapesta, în semn de solidaritate cu evreii din Ungaria, care s-au confruntat, în ultima vreme, cu manifestări antisemite semnificative, orchestrate mai ales de partidul de extremă-dreaptă Jobbik.

- La cina festivă din deschiderea evenimentului :
 - Președintele WJC, Amb. Ronald S. Lauder, a adus un omagiu comunității evreiești din Ungaria și personalităților acesteia, precum J. Pulitzer sau T. Herzl, a făcut o scurtă istorie a Holocaustului în această zonă, încheind cu un apel către autoritățile maghiare de a stopa antisemitismul și xenofobia:

APROBAT

în ședința Biroului permanent al
Camerei Deputaților



data de 01-07-2013
911

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„Apariția partidelor antisemite în anii 1920 și 1930 a dus la cel mai întunecat capitol dintre toate – deportarea și gazarea a mai bine de 400.000 de evrei din Ungaria, bărbați, femei și copii.

Este atât de evident că dacă acestor forțe întunecate ale antisemitismului nu li s-ar fi permis creșterea în secolul al 20-lea, nu doar evreii, ci și toți maghiarii ar fi prosperat. (...) când evreii sunt lăsați să-și trăiască viețile liber și să-și practice religia, țările înfloresc întotdeauna. Este atât de evident.

Dar mult prea adesea, ura irațională, care este antisemitismul, învinge bunul simț. După 1920, guvernul amiralului Miklós Horthy, un antisemit vicios, a împins Ungaria spre această ură irațională. Guvernul său a adoptat succesive legi antievreiești și s-a aliat îndeaproape cu naziștii din Germania. Și în 1938, regimul Horthy a adoptat versiunea proprie a infamelor Legi de la Nuremberg. Primele deportări ale evreilor din Ungaria spre lagărele de concentrare au început în 1941, sub supravegherea amiralului Horthy.

(...) astăzi vedem, încă o dată, ignoranță crescândă, intoleranță crescândă, ură crescândă. Încă o dată vedem atrocitatea antisemitismului. Aceasta nu se întâmplă numai în Ungaria, ci și în alte părți în Europa – în Grecia, în Ucraina și altundeva. Vedem că evreii și alte minorități sunt izolate, defăimate, demonizate. Vedem că tot mai mulți oameni neagă pe față Holocaustul, care se întâmplă să fie una dintre tragediile cu cele mai multe dovezi documentare din istorie. Vedem că un număr crescând de persoane chiar cred vechiul zvon fals că evreii controlează finanțele mondiale sau media sau toate lucrurile.

Și vedem că evreii sunt din nou învinuiți pentru probleme economice. Astăzi, există membrii ai Parlamentului ungar care cer Guvernului să întocmească «liste cu evreii» care dețin funcții publice. Aceasta transmite semnale de alarmă întregii lumi. (...) de ce antisemiți ca Miklós Horthy sunt glorificați și de ce statui care-i onorează sunt dezvelite de oficialități maghiare? (...)

Fascismul și intoleranța îi atacă întotdeauna primii pe evrei. Dar aceștia nu sunt niciodată ultimele victime. Toți oamenii buni suferă. Țările suferă. În final, această ură și intoleranță nu face decât să distrugă speranțele unei națiuni, progresul și viitorul ei.”

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- Premierul Ungariei, dl. Viktor Orbán a subliniat faptul că autoritățile maghiare nu tolerează antisemitismul, care, în opinia sa, e legat de criza economică:

„Suntem cu toții conștienți de creșterea antisemitismului în Europa, inclusiv în Ungaria.

Situația este una dificilă. Criza economică zguduie din temelii Europa și lipsa de succes a gestionării crizei de către liderii europeni cauzează creșterea frustrării adânci și mistuie speranțele oamenilor. (...) Dezamăgirea, furia și ura sunt în creștere. Într-o astfel de situație este cu atât mai important să precizăm clar: **antisemitismul este inacceptabil și intolerabil.**

(...) Suntem conștienți că de-a lungul istoriei au existat creștini răi și maghiari răi, care au comis păcate cumplite. În lumina acestora, răspunsul nostru la creșterea antisemitismului în Europa și în Ungaria este nu să ne abandonăm rădăcinile religioase și morale, ci exact opusul: **să ne amintim și să întărim exemplele și tradiția bunilor creștini.**”

Premierul V. Orban a evidențiat că actualul guvern creștin-democrat al Ungariei consideră că **„este datoria sa morală să declare o politică de toleranță zero împotriva antisemitismului”**; de asemenea, el a contabilizat câteva dintre acțiunile sau proiectele întreprinse de guvern: stabilirea Zilei Memorialului Holocaustului, introducerea în școli a unei zile de comemorare a victimelor Holocaustului, ascultarea Kadiș-ului (n.r. – rugăciune ptr. morți) în Parlament, un an comemorativ pentru Raoul Wallenberg, interzicerea organizațiilor paramilitare, prefigurarea „Comitetului de comemorare a Holocaustului 2014”.

- Dl. Silvan Shalom, ministrul israelian al Energiei, a apreciat că „prim-ministrul V. Orban a transmis, prin refuzul său de a tolera antisemitismul, un semnal clar comunității evreiești din Ungaria, dar și extremiștilor”, însă a subliniat totodată că **„este timpul să fie implementate concret”** diverse măsuri.

Congresul Mondial Evreiesc a reiterat din nou speranța că autoritățile maghiare vor adopta „măsuri eficiente” împotriva antisemitismului.

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- Serge Cwajgenbaum, secretarul general al Congresului Evreiesc European (EJC), a subliniat că și în Ungaria „**este nevoie de legi foarte aspre, ca cele adoptate recent în Grecia, unde guvernul a luat decizia de a interzice manifestațiile antisemite și i-a avertizat pe deputații extremei-drepte că ar putea să-și piardă imunitatea parlamentară și să fie chemați în instanță.**”
- Antisemitismul a fost combătut și de Ministrul de Externe al Germaniei, Guido Westerwelle, prezent pe 6 mai la dezbaterile Adunării generale a WJC: „**Antisemitismul nu are ce căuta nici la Berlin, nici la Budapesta, nici oriunde altundeva în Europa sau în lume. (...) Este responsabilitatea noastră să păstrăm memoria Holocaustului pentru generațiile viitoare. Le datorăm aceasta victimelor. Le datorăm aceasta supraviețuitorilor. Ne datorăm asta nouă înșine. (...) Ne angajăm cu fermitate să protejăm și să sprijinim viața evreiască în societățile noastre și să combatem antisemitismul pe tot globul. Trebuie să înlăturăm cauzele înrădăcinate ale antisemitismului.**”

Ministrul de externe al Germaniei a reiterat sprijinul țării sale pentru continuarea procesului de pace israeliano-palestinian, pentru o soluție cu două state, evidențiind dreptul Israelului de a-și proteja cetățenii: „**Nu trebuie să uităm că Israelul este singura democrație durabilă și funcționabilă din Orientul Mijlociu.**”

Reamintindu-și prima călătorie în Israel, ca student, pe la 20 de ani, G. Westerwelle a menționat că „stând pe vârful Muntelui Tabor, privind țara, am realizat cât de mic este Israelul și am înțeles ce înseamnă securitatea pentru Israel. (...) Dacă 1500 de rachete ar fi trase spre tine ... tu cum ai reacționa? (...). **Germania continuă angajamentul său față de securitatea Israelului, și, permiteți-mi să adaug, Israelul are dreptul legitim de a se apăra. (...) Nu putem și nu vom accepta o armă nucleară iraniană; (...) este o amenințare pentru securitatea întregii regiuni.**”

- **Procesul de pace israeliano-palestinian**, revoluțiile arabe și Iranul au fost temele unei ample discuții din data de 6 mai, moderate de jurnalistul Tim Sebastian, comentator BBC. Din Panel au făcut parte reprezentanți ai: Uniunii Europene – Helga Schmid, secretar general adjunct al Serviciul

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European de Acțiune Externă, Israelului – Amb. Benny Dagan, Centrul pentru Studii politice al Ministerului de Externe israelian, SUA – Amb. David Hale, Trimisul special al SUA în Orientul Mijlociu, Japoniei – Amb. Yukata Iimura, Trimisul special al Guvernului Japoniei în Orientul Mijlociu.

- În aceeași zi a fost prezentat și „Raportul privind antisemitismul în țările arabe: 2012”. Dezbaterile au adus în prim-plan creșterea antisemitismului violent și a incitărilor la ură rasială în țările arabe. De asemenea, s-a reamintit o problemă prea adesea uitată de opinia publică internațională: **tragedia evreilor din țările arabe, după 1948**. O dată cu declanșarea conflictelor dintre țările respective și Israel, **statistica oficială indică 856.000 de „refugiații evrei”, peste 95% din totalul comunităților din zonă**; sute de mii de evrei, care formau comunități vechi de mii de ani, au fost supuși unor acte de violență extremă, li s-au confiscat toate bunurile, au trăit în condiții sub-umane în adevărate lagăre izolate, până când au reușit să ajungă în Israel sau în alte țări democratice; mai mult, în urma lor, sinagogile și arhivele au fost sistematic distruse. În acest context, s-a făcut un apel către comunitatea internațională pentru a sprijini păstrarea locurilor istorice și a memoriei evreiești din țările arabe.
- WJC a înaintat o Rezoluție privind procesul de pace în Orientul Mijlociu în care reafirmă „sprijinul total al evreimii mondiale pentru statul și poporul Israelian”, „drepturile legitime ale Israelului, inclusiv dreptul de a se autoapăra când e atacat”
- A doua Rezoluție înaintată de WJC face un apel la Uniunea Europeană „**să declare Hezbollah ca organizație teroristă criminală**”, în contextul în care „Guvernul Bulgariei a prezentat dovezi concludente că Hezbollah a plănit și executat atacul terorist de la Burgas, din 2012” și „operativi ai Hezbollah au admis recent în fața unei instanțe judecătorești din Cipru că plănuiau atacuri împotriva civililor europeni”. Același document deplânge faptul că în Argentina n-au fost aduși în fața justiției autorii atacului terorist de acum 19 ani împotriva Centrului Evreiesc AMIA din Buenos Aires. De asemenea, documentul face un

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apel la comunitatea internațională să adopte „măsuri concrete și campanii împotriva terorismului cu sponsorizare iraniană din toată lumea”.

- În cadrul Adunării generale a WJC a fost prezentat pe 7 mai, raportul „Creșterea neo-nazismului în sistemul partidelor politice” în Europa și în lume. Au fost detaliate trei studii de caz: „Jobbik” în Ungaria, „Zorii aurii” în Grecia și „NPD (Partidul Național Democrat)” în Germania, amintindu-se și de formațiuni similare în alte țări europene.

În cercetare, se mai arată faptul că „formule de propagandă”, „mante” și „metafore” neo-naziste au fost preluate de partidele islamiste extremiste. În Ungaria, Jobbik a început ca o organizație de tineret în 2002 și a obținut un scor de circa 17% la alegerile din 2010, încurajând și o formațiune paramilitară „Garda Maghiară”, acum scoasă în afara legii. Platforma Jobbik se bazează pe: antisemitism, reprezentanții săi cerând întocmirea listelor cu evrei din instituțiile publice, căci „reprezintă o amenințare pentru securitatea națională” și susținând că „Israelul vrea să cumpere Ungaria”; „refacerea granițelor în Europa centrală și de est” și revenirea la granițele de dinainte de „tragedia de la Trianon”; „rezolvarea problemei creșterii populației rome”; încurajarea cultului lui Horthy. În pre-ziua Congresului, sâmbătă, 4 mai, Jobbik a organizat o manifestație publică de protest împotriva desfășurării Adunării WJC la Budapesta, cu „tradiționalele” slogane și discursuri virulent antisemite și xenofobe; deși inițial manifestația era ilegală, ea a fost în final aprobată printr-un ordin al unei curți judecătorești.

- Congresul Mondial Evreiesc a adoptat Rezoluția în care **cere guvernelor din Europa „să ia în considerare interzicerea partidelor sau organizațiilor neonaziste al căror scop este răsturnarea ordinii democratice sau care reprezintă o amenințare pentru siguranța și bunăstarea minorităților etnice, religioase sau de alt fel”**. Documentul îndeamnă autoritățile, mai ales acelea din țările unde „populația evreiască a fost decimată în timpul Shoah-ului”, „să adopte și să aplice legi împotriva amenințărilor cu violența, ura rasială și negarea Holocaustului”. De asemenea, se face un apel către autoritățile maghiare și alți lideri să se alăture celor 125 de legiuitori din peste 40 de țări la semnarea „Declarației de la Londra privind combaterea antisemitismului”, adoptată în februarie 2009, la Summit-ul Coaliției Inter-Parlamentare pentru

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Combaterea Antisemitismului (ICCA), cu reprezentanți din toată lumea.

- La finalul congresului, a avut loc o **manifestare comemorativă dedicată victimelor Holocaustului maghiar**. De asemenea, **medalia „Nahum Goldman”** i-a fost **înmânată fostului premier ungar Miklós Németh**. În 1989, acesta s-a implicat în deschiderea Cortinei de Fier sprijinind emigrarea în Israel a evreilor din fosta URSS, prin aeroportul din Budapesta.
- **Libertatea și practicile religioase** au fost punctul de plecare al unei noi sesiuni de dezbatere, pe data de 7 mai, moderate de Rabbi Joel Meyers, Președintele secțiunii americane a Congresului Mondial Evreiesc. Din Panel au făcut parte: Rabinul-Şef Iaakov Dov Bleich al Kievului și Ucrainei, membru în Executivul Congresului European Evreiesc; Cardinalul Péter Erdő Arhiepiscopul de Esztergom – Budapest, Președintele Consiliului Conferinței Episcopilor Europeni; Prof. dr. Din Syamsuddin, Președintele Muhammadiyah din Indonezia.

Liderii religioși, reprezentând cele trei mari religii monoteiste ale lumii, au subliniat **datoria îndrumătorilor spirituali de a combate fanatismul și violența împotriva celor de altă credință**, în rândul propriilor enoriași, precum și folosirea doctrinelor religioase în scopuri politice, manipulative. Membrii panelului au reafirmat importanța dialogului inter-religios pentru susținerea toleranței.

De asemenea, s-a subliniat sprijinul comun pentru **dreptul la liberă practică a credințelor religioase specifice**. Într-o a patra rezoluție, WJC atrage atenția asupra **încercărilor făcute în unele țări europene de a îngrădi practici religioase evreiești milenare, precum Brit Milah (circumcizia) și Șehita (sacrificarea cașer a animalelor)**, interzicerea acestora fiind o amenințare a însăși identității religioase evreiești. De asemenea, WJC notează că, în toată lumea, comunitățile evreiești s-au angajat să coopereze cu autoritățile pentru a se asigura că toate practicile religioase se fac la cele mai înalte standarde de sănătate și siguranță.

- În cadrul Congresului Mondial Evreiesc s-a desfășurat și **„Rețeaua profesională evreiască”** (Jewish Professionals' Network) – un proiect dedicat tinerilor care activează în comunitățile evreiești din toată lumea.

Tema globală a dezbaterilor din cadrul JPN a fost **„ura și antisemitismul în spațiul virtual”**, pornind de la constatarea că discriminarea este prezentă pe net și crește

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proporțional cu rețeaua însăși. Folosit nu doar pentru a transmite informații, ci și idei, utilizat pentru a crea curente de opinii și chiar de gândire, pentru a provoca reacții sociale și manifestări de grup, internetul e un nou spațiu de promovare a anti-israelismului și antisemitismului.

Discuțiile au vizat modalitățile de a **combate postările antisemite și cadrul legislativ prin care anumite companii sau publicații pot fi convinse ori acționate în justiție** spre a îndepărta posturile respective.

Tinerii din cadrul JPN au avut și o masă rotundă cu Tim Sebastian, comentator BBC, cu tema: „Standarde duble? **Principalele canale media critică în mod disproporționat Israelul în timp ce le acordă circumstanțe atenuate vecinilor?**” – o dezbatere animată, în contextul în care majoritatea participanților au fost sceptici la încercările jurnalistului de a-i convinge să creadă în independența reală a, cel puțin, unei anumite părți a presei.

Consider că participarea unui reprezentant al Parlamentului României la această manifestare majoră, deosebit de importantă, a evreilor din toate țările – cetățeni cu drepturi și obligații depline în statelor lor de reședință, a fost utilă prin discursurile rostite, rezoluțiile adoptate și rapoartele prezentate. Lucrările acestei Adunări Plenare a WJC pun la dispoziție un amplu material de studiu și documentare, cu numeroase idei și cerințe, care pot și trebuie să fie luate în considerare de Guvernele și Parlamentele țărilor democratice, din Europa și alte continente.


Deputat Aurel Vainer

Grupul Parlamentar al Minorităților Naționale

26.06.2013

Anexe : principalele mesaje oficiale, transcript integral, în limba engleză, rostite de : dl. Viktor Orban – Prim Ministru al Ungariei, dl. Guido Westerwelle – Ministru de Externe al R. F. Germania, dl. Ambasador Ronald S. Lauder – Președinte WJC și dl. Peter Feldmajer – Președinte al Federației Comunităților Evreiești din Ungaria.

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14TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY - WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

AMB. RONALD S. LAUDER, WJC PRESIDENT.

BUDAPEST, 5 MAY 2013

Prime Minister Orban,

President of Mazsihisz, my friend Péter Feldmájer,

Cardinal Erdő,

Rabbis, Ministers and Members of Parliament,

Distinguished ambassadors,

Representatives of our Jewish Communities from all around the world,

ladies and gentlemen,

Dear friends:

First of all, I want to thank Péter Feldmájer and the wonderful Jewish community here in Hungary. The fact that we are here tonight – representatives of Jewish communities from 100 countries around the world – is a tribute to the strength, resilience and vitality of Hungarian Jewry and to your leadership, Péter.

Prime Minister Orban and Cardinal Erdő, we thank you for being with us. Your presence here tonight is also fitting because Budapest's history is tied to Jewish history.

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Less than one hundred years ago, a quarter of this great city's population was Jewish. Hungary's Jews contributed to the country's economy, its culture, and its universities as well as its extraordinary tradition of mathematics and science.

Albert Einstein happens to be one of the few top physicists in the last century who was not born in Hungary but figures such as Szilard, Teller and Johnny von Neuman were just some of the brilliant Jewish minds that all came from Hungary and left a huge impact on the world.

Joseph Pulitzer, one of America's greatest newspaper publishers and the founder of the most coveted prize in journalism that still bears his name today came from Hungary.

And of course, Theodor Herzl, who founded the modern Zionist movement that led to the creation of Israel is from here as well.

My own mother's parents were born here. The Lauder family dates back to the 13th Century, so you see my connection to Hungary is both deep and personal. But sadly, all of the famous Jews I mention – and there are many more – noble laureates, artists and scholars – all left Hungary because they were forced to leave.

The rise of anti-Semitic parties in the 1920s and the 1930s led to the darkest chapter of all - the deportation and gassing of more than 400,000 Jewish men, women and children. A staggering one-third of the 1.1 million Jews murdered at Auschwitz were Hungarian.

It is so clear that if these dark forces of anti-Semitism had not been allowed to rise in the 20th century – not just Jews but all Hungarians would have prospered.

This always strikes me as so obvious – when Jews are allowed to live their lives freely and practice their religion, countries always flourish. It is obvious. But all too often, the irrational hatred that is Anti- Semitism defeats common sense.

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**Deputat
Aurel Vainer**

Blvd. Regina Elisabeta nr. 63, sc. C, et. 6, ap.23, Sector 5, 050015, Bucuresti
www.aurelvainer.ro | aurel.vainer@cdep.ro

+40.742.233.573 mob +40.21.314.77.44 tel
+40.21.313.10.28 fax

After 1920, the government of Admiral Miklós Horthy – a vicious anti-Semite – moved Hungary towards this irrational hatred. His government passed successive anti-Jewish laws and aligned itself closely with the Nazis in Germany. And in 1938, the Horthy regime enacted its version of the infamous Nuremberg Laws. The first deportations of Jews from Hungary to concentration camps began in 1941, on Admiral Horthy's watch.

I am recalling these facts now not because we are not familiar with them, but because today we are seeing, once again, growing ignorance, growing intolerance, growing hatred. Once again we see the outrage of anti-Semitism.

This is by no means only in Hungary, but also in other places in Europe – in Greece, in Ukraine and elsewhere. We see that Jews and other minorities are singled out, vilified, demonized.

We see that more and more people openly deny the Holocaust, which happens to be one of the most well documented tragedies in history.

We see that a growing number of people actually believe the old canard that Jews control world finance, or the media, or everything.

And we see that Jews again are being blamed for economic troubles.

Today, there are members of the Hungarian Parliament who want the government to draw up "Lists of Jews" who hold public office. That sends out warning signals around the world.

In the press and on television, anti-Semitism and incitement against the Roma minority are becoming commonplace, even accepted. We were shocked to learn that an anti-Semitic TV presenter was awarded a prize.

We acknowledge of course that the prize was withdrawn. But the fact that it was awarded in the first place is the kind of thing that has us worried.

**Birou
Parlamentar**



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www.aurelvainer.ro | aurel.vainer@cdep.ro

+40.742.233.573 mob +40.21.314.77.44 tel
+40.21.313.10.28 fax

And there is this journalist, Zsolt Bayer, who recently called Gypsies “cowardly, repulsive, noxious animals.” He said they were “unfit to live among people” and called for “dealing with them immediately.”

Such words are reminiscent of the darkest era in European history. Let us never forget the Roma were also victims of the Nazi Holocaust.

Today, Jews are again wondering whether they will have to leave the country, for similar reasons. Perhaps because they wonder why anti-Semites like Miklós Horthy are being glorified, and why statues honoring them are unveiled by Hungarian officials? Perhaps because they wonder if Jews have a future in Hungary?

Whatever the reason, their concerns must be taken seriously.

When Hungarian Jews are attacked by fanatics, they should be able to count on the unequivocal support of their government and of their authorities. It is the authorities that must stop this before it even begins.

Mr. Prime Minister, I know that the Hungarian people love freedom. They are courageous. Hungarians, at important moments, have been models for the entire world.

In 1956, Hungary was the first country to rise up against the Soviet oppressors.

In 1989, it was Hungary that set off the chain reaction, which opened the Iron Curtain and brought down the Berlin Wall.

Mr. Prime Minister, you were part of this.

The fall of Communism paved the way for a rebirth not just of a new Hungary but also for the renewal of Jewish life in this part of the world that nobody had thought possible in the aftermath of the Shoah.

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+40.742.233.573 mob +40.21.314.77.44 tel
+40.21.313.10.28 fax

I decided to support that Jewish renaissance as much as I could. In 1990, I established the Lauder Javne School in Budapest. It is now welcoming 600 Jewish students a year and enriching their lives with Jewish values.

I am very proud of that, and tomorrow we shall all have a chance to see more of the children when we have dinner at the school.

I have rebuilt synagogues here – showing my strong commitment to Hungary's history and it's great heritage. Let there be no doubt: I still believe in the future of this country. And so do many others. Prime Minister Orbán, I thank you for your presence here tonight.

It is no secret that Hungary's international reputation has suffered in recent years. But Hungary's good name was not smeared by the foreign press, but by extremists.

Mr. Prime Minister, we are especially concerned about one particular party.

I am talking about Jobbik, a party that won almost 17 percent of the vote in the 2010 elections. Through its anti-Semitism, its hostility to the Roma, and its paranoid rantings at the outside world, Jobbik is dragging the good name of Hungary through the mud.

That same party held a demonstration just yesterday against our gathering here in Budapest. You have made many pronouncements. And your words are very important.

Hungarian Jews need you to take a firm and decisive lead. They need you to take on these dark forces. They need you to be pro-active. They need your leadership in this fight.

They need you to send the message to the entire population that intolerance will not be tolerated.

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+40.742.233.573 mob +40.21.314.77.44 tel
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And yes, that message must be repeated ... and then repeated again. As president of the World Jewish Congress, I ask you to do precisely that and thus to demonstrate this great country's finest traditions. It is time for strong leadership and even stronger actions. We truly hope that you will be successful.

Fascism and intolerance always single out the Jews first. But they are never the last victims. All good people suffer. Countries suffer. In the end, this hatred and intolerance only destroys a nation's hopes, its progress and its future.

Mr. Prime Minister, this hall is full of hope. We welcome you here at our gathering as you and the majority of your compatriots have welcomed us to your country. We thank you for being with us in your stunningly beautiful capital city.

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+40.742.233.573 mob +40.21.314.77.44 tel
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14TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY - WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

VIKTOR ORBAN, PRIME MINISTER OF HUNGARY

BUDAPEST, 5TH MAY 2013

President Lauder, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good evening.

May I just welcome you whole-heartedly here in Budapest. Shalom. It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Budapest in the name of Hungary and the people of Hungary. I greet the representatives of the Jewish community, and a warm welcome to our guests in our country. It is with special pleasure and friendship that I greet those who have in fact come home, because they have their family roots here.

Hungary has a deep-rooted tradition of welcoming and respecting guests. Here, all who knock on our door have a right to hospitality. And so I wish that you all have an enjoyable stay and take pleasure in our wonderful capital! Hungary is a free country, and so the right to hospitality includes mentioning the things that may bother you and that you may find wrong.

Your leaders justified your visit by the fact that they wished to draw the world's attention to increasing anti-Semitism in Hungary. If this is the way they feel, then it is good that you have come to us, because we need everyone's help and cooperation to successfully act against the spread of hate.

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+40.742.233.573 mob +40.21.314.77.44 tel
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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I know that Jewish leaders have come here from all over the world. Including from places where anti-Semitism sometimes claims the lives of schoolchildren. And from places where following the anti-Semitic murder of children, there is no consensus on whether a minute's silence in memory of the victims may be ordered in state schools.

From places where bomb attacks that claim lives are launched against synagogues. Nothing of this nature has so far occurred in Hungary. We do not want Hungary to become a country of that kind, and so I ask you to share your experiences so that hate cannot degenerate to this level here in Hungary.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

History has taught the Hungarians that anti-Semitism must be recognised in time. Hungary lived through and is intimately aware of the inhumane destruction that anti-Semitism caused to the Jewish people, Hungary and the whole of Europe. It is with a broken heart that we bow our heads in memory of the victims.

And at the same time we thank God that despite the Nazi and Arrow Cross destruction an authentic Jewish community, one of Europe's most significant and ancient Jewish communities, managed to survive here in Hungary. We thank God that he has enriched all of Hungary as a result.

We have also learned that anti-Semitism isn't a natural disaster but the work of men. And as a result we must all feel and accept our own, personal responsibility. We are all aware of the growth of anti-Semitism throughout Europe, including Hungary. The situation is a difficult one.

The economic crisis is shaking Europe to the core, and the unsuccessful crisis management of European leaders is causing increasingly deep frustration, and

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+40.742.233.573 mob +40.21.314.77.44 tel
+40.21.313.10.28 fax

consuming people's hope. Let's talk straight. Disillusionment, anger and hatred are on the increase. In a situation such as this it is especially important that we make it clear: anti-Semitism is unacceptable and intolerable.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today's difficult situation requires an answer to the question, where did we go wrong in Europe during the past twenty years. We finally destroyed communism. We put an end to the Cold War. Europe was given the chance to once again be the continent of peace, cohabitation, understanding and tolerance. And here we are twenty years later and are searching for a cure for increasing intolerance and anti-Semitism. What happened to us?

This is a question that is asked by many and we hear many arguments. We Hungarians provided our own answer two years ago when we set down our first, democratic Constitution. We Hungarians think that it was a mistake to believe that a community with a weak national and religious identity would give us a better chance of peaceful cohabitation.

Today, it seems that a strong identity provides better bedrock for mutual acknowledgement and respect. Today, it seems that all of us, Jews and non-Jews alike, benefit most if we strive to be good patriots and the good children of God. Each according to their own laws, but all standing firm on the bedrock of unconditional respect for human dignity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the end, things always become simplified. They are simplified into good and bad. You know perhaps better than anybody else that in the final analysis, the world is governed by two types of human intent and actions: good and bad. When the will of

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+40.742.233.573 mob +40.21.314.77.44 tel
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good people was at the fore here in Hungary, then Hungarians and Jews lived together in peace and prosperity, and if needed the State of Hungary protected its citizens.

Anti-Semitism is a state of mind in which evil takes control of people's thoughts and actions, and this danger also threatens us, Christians. We are aware that during the course of history there were bad Christians and bad Hungarians, who committed grievous sins. In the light of all this, our answer to increasing anti-Semitism in Europe and in Hungary is not the giving up of our religious and moral roots, but exactly the opposite: to recall and reinforce the examples and tradition of good Christians.

Accordingly, the current Constitution provides true protection, true security, real and full human dignity, personal and community dignity to the Jewish people, and of course to all minorities, who live side-by-side with us.

Today's Hungarian Christian Democrat government politics felt that it was its moral duty to introduce a remembrance day for victims of the holocaust in schools. It felt that it was its moral obligation to establish Holocaust Memorial Day. It felt morally bound to stand with heads bowed and listen to the Kaddish in the same houses of parliament in which the anti-Jewish laws were once passed. It felt that it was its moral duty to organise a memorial year in respect of Raoul Wallenberg. It felt it was its moral obligation to ban the operations of paramilitary organisations.

It felt it was it was morally bound to set up the Holocaust 2014 memorial Committee. It felt that it was its moral duty to ban symbols of dictatorship.

And it felt and feels it to be its moral obligation to declare a policy of zero tolerance against anti-Semitism.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

We still hear in our ears and feel in our hearts the teachings of our first Christian king, with the wisdom we know well from the Talmud. The Talmud teaches: "Hate, evil tendencies and vanity drive men from this world". Our King, Saint Stephen, wrote to his son: "Always bear in mind that all men are born in a similar state, and it is only humility that lifts him up, and only arrogance and hatred that topples him".

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our generation is the generation of peace and revolutions. In our youth we toppled communism and regained our country's independence so that we could all live here in freedom. We know that there is no freedom without human dignity. And so our generation will not tolerate the wounding of the human dignity of anybody in our country because of their ancestry or religion, because that would be an affront to the freedom that we have struggled together to achieve.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In closing, please let me thank the Jewish people of Hungary and the world for repeatedly standing up for Hungary and the national objectives of the people of Hungary in recent years. I recall the memory of Tom Lapid, who spoke out against the assaulting of Hungarians in the Vojvodina.

It is here that I remember those Jewish communities who stood up for the rights of Hungarians living beyond our borders and for the dual nationality of Hungarians. It is here that I must mention the loud and open support expressed by Chief Rabbi of Israel Yona Metzger during the course of international debate on our Constitution.

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Their support is living reassurance and encouragement of the fact that our work is not in vain. There is hope that our children may live in an era in which anti-Semitism is just as inconceivable as the past ages in which the world suffered from the plague. This is not just a dream, it is a possibility, and one that I feel is only up to us. We know that the triumph of evil requires only that good people remain inactive. We Hungarians are not and shall not be inactive. I would ask you all to take this message with you to the Jewish people of the world.

Welcome to Hungary.

**Birou
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www.aurelvainer.ro | aurel.vainer@cdep.ro

+40.742.233.573 mob +40.21.314.77.44 tel
+40.21.313.10.28 fax

14TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY - WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

DR. GUIDO WESTERWELLE

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Dear President Lauder,

liebe Frau Knobloch,

lieber Herr Dr. Graumann,

Distinguished guests,

Dear friends,

For several hundred years, Budapest was one of the most vibrant centers of Jewish life in Europe. The Great Synagogue on Dohány Street is one of the most beautiful and impressive monuments of Jewish Heritage in Europe.

In March 1944, Adolf Eichmann set up his staff in the Hotel Majestic here in Budapest.

Within few weeks, 500.000 Hungarian Jewish children, women and men were deported and killed in Auschwitz.

The memory of this darkest chapter of German History stays with us forever.

We mourn the six million sons and daughters of the Jewish people that were murdered in the Shoah.

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www.aurelvainer.ro | aurel.vainer@cdep.ro

+40.742.233.573 mob +40.21.314.77.44 tel
+40.21.313.10.28 fax

We are profoundly grateful that today, Jewish communities are once again an integral part of our societies in Germany and in Europe. I sincerely thank the World Jewish Congress and the Central Council of Jews in Germany for their commitment to this cause.

I am very honored and grateful to be here today and address your Plenary Assembly. I thank you for the trust and the faith of the international Jewish Community in Germany.

The World Jewish Congress has always been at the forefront in protecting the memory of the Holocaust. Germany stands by your side.

We must not forget and we will not forget.

It is our responsibility to preserve the memory of the Holocaust for future generations. We owe it to the victims. We owe it to the survivors. We owe it to ourselves.

Yet, our responsibility is not only about preserving the memory of the past. It is about shaping the future. We are firmly committed to protecting and nourishing Jewish life in our societies and to countering Anti-Semitism across the globe.

Anti-Semitism has no place neither in Berlin nor in Budapest nor anywhere else in Europe or in the world.

The fight against Anti-Semitism is not only about protecting Jewish citizens against such distasteful attacks as occurred last summer in Berlin against Rabbi Alter.

We have to tackle the root causes of Anti-Semitism.

We have to invest in Holocaust education and research. And we have to stand up against Anti-Semitism when it comes along in a subtle way.

Some people think: What do I have to do with this? That is not my business. Today it might be a Jewish neighbour, tomorrow it is yourself.

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Parlamentar



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This fight is about preserving our common values. It is about standing up for democracy, for individual freedom, for human rights and for human dignity.

Two weeks ago, on April 21st, tens of thousands rallied here in Budapest for the "March of the Living".

They stood together to remember the victims of the Holocaust and to protest against anti-Semitism. These pictures, to me, sent a message of hope that we will prevail.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Of course the bond between Germany and Israel derives from history. But it is much more: we belong to the same community of values. Israel is the only sustainable and functioning democracy in the Middle East. We belong to the same community of values, the community of democrats.

I was a young student when I first visited Israel. I traveled the country and went to the hills of Galilee. Standing on top of Mount Tabor and overlooking the country, I realized just how small Israel is.

And I came to understand what security means for Israel.

Almost every Israeli citizen over the years has witnessed loss in his family or among his friends. Two generations of Israeli citizens have lived through war.

Security for Israel is something that cannot be taken for granted. Germany stands by its commitment to the security of Israel.

And let me add: Israel has the legitimate right to defend itself.

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We will continue to denounce any incitement against the State of Israel or its right to exist. We will stand up when Israel is threatened or its legitimacy called into question.

And we have made very clear: We cannot and will not accept an Iranian nuclear weapon.

I understand that Israeli citizens view the Iranian nuclear program as an existential threat. It is a threat for the stability of the entire region. It could spark a nuclear arms race.

And it endangers the global non-proliferation regime, a cornerstone of global security. Together with our partners we are investing tremendous efforts into the negotiations with Iran. Our aim is simple. We want to ensure that the Iranian regime forsakes nuclear weapons.

We do not underestimate the enormous difficulties. But a strong and united stance by the international community is the best way to convince Iran to meet its international obligations.

We have proven resolve in adopting ever stronger sanctions against the Iranian Regime. These sanctions are showing results.

Iran must now seriously engage to give the negotiation process a chance to succeed. We will not accept talks for the sake of talks.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the last two years, we have witnessed extraordinary changes in the Arab World. Ordinary citizens sparked the movement for change. Mohammed Bouazizi in Tunisia. Young people on Kairo's Tahrir Square and in the streets of Benghazi. And peaceful protesters in Syria, who were brutally shot by the Assad Regime.

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Two years on, there are many sceptics when it comes to transformation in the Arab World. Many fear that the new governments will not follow the path towards democracy and respect of universal values.

At times, it seems that political and sectarian differences could outweigh the quest for democracy and economic reforms.

And yet, young people in the Arab World are now more optimistic about their future than two years ago.

The path is different for each and every country. We cannot force upon the Arab countries our understanding of how societies should function.

But we can make a difference. Germany has concluded Transformation Partnerships with Tunisia and Egypt.

We have committed ourselves to advance democracy and the rule of law. Our message to people in the Arab World is straight-forward. If you embark on the process of democratic and economic reforms you can count on our support.

So far, we have only witnessed the first few minutes of an historic hour. Change will take time. We need strategic patience. This is an historic opportunity to advance freedom, democracy and universal human rights throughout the region.

This is the historic opportunity for Israel to live among democracies. The historic opportunity to make peace among free peoples.

In my view, the response for Israel to this change should be a renewed commitment for peace. Let me quote President Obama in his speech to the People of Israel on March 21st:

“Peace is the only path to true security.”

Nothing can guarantee Israel’s long-term security better than peace with its neighbours and peace with the Palestinians.

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We strongly support renewed efforts towards a Two-State-Solution.

I know that a renewed commitment for peace requires courage and entails hard choices for both sides. But time is running out.

The longer the conflict takes, the harder it will become to reach a solution.

Ladies and Gentleman,

Let me conclude by thanking the World Jewish Congress:

- For re-establishing ties between World Jewry and Post-War Germany.
- For reaching out to my country over the abyss of the past. For relentlessly fighting to preserve the legacy of the Holocaust. And for being a constant reminder to all of us – everywhere in the world – to remain vigilant.

Europe is based on our common values. It is more than a single market. It is more than a common currency. Europe is a community of values.

Every time our values are being challenged we will raise our voice. We will speak out clearly.

We are tolerant citizens. Tolerance is wise; tolerance in the face of intolerance is historic foolishness. At this meeting here in Budapest we stand together: For our values, for tolerance and against Anti-Semitism.

Thank you.

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14TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY - WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

DR. PÉTER FELDMÁJER

PRESIDENT OF THE HUNGARIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY

(MAZSIHISZ)

Mr President Lauder, Mr Prime Minister,

His Excellency, the Cardinal, Bishops,

Rabbis,

Mr and Madam Ambassadors, Dear Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ma nishtano halailo haze?

What makes this night different from all other nights, we ask each Passover Seder evening; today we can ask the question: ma nishtano hacongres haze - i.e. what makes this congress different from all other congresses?

First and most, it is that we would like to welcome you in Budapest, the capital of Hungary, a glorious city that safeguards the joys and also the tortures of the past.

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You have arrived in a country which - legend has it - saw the Jewish people from the Kazar empire come into this land together with the state founding proud horse tribes, and also where for many decades in the 19th century the Jews of the east were greeted with a warm and wholehearted welcome. The Jews here had become Hungarian patriots, they quickly lost their own language and supported the cause of Hungarian independence without reservations; nevertheless, already in the very first days of the 1848 heroic freedom fight, a pogrom was launched against the Jews of Bratislava.

You have come to a city that is proud to have Tivadar Herzl, the visionary of modern Israel, as its son and student.

You have come to a country which had lost World War I and with that 2/3 of its territory. The heroism of the Jewish soldiers and officers fighting the war as Hungarian patriots had become legendary, yet it did nothing to stop the political elite from blaming the Jews for the defeat and introducing the very first anti-Semitic laws of Europe, which served as models for the Nazis.

You have come to a country where the vast majority of the then mainstream society approved of the anti-Semitic laws and while most of them did not identify with the massacres, ultimately the entire Hungarian public administration - led by the Governor - successfully organised and implemented the gathering and deportation of Jews to the gas chambers of Auschwitz. You have come to a city that is proud of its jewel, the blue Danube, whose water was once painted red by the blood of tens of thousands of Jews shot dead on its banks.

You have come to a city where despite decades of anti-Semitic propaganda, despite official prohibitions, there were still hundreds and thousands that risked their lives standing up for, hiding and saving the lives of Jews.

You have come to a country where the majority of Jewish people - despite the massacres - remained patriotic to the land.

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You have come to a country in which Moscow-based concoctors of leftist anti-Semitic pogroms could not achieve anything because the otherwise loyal Communist leaders of the country were not willing to identify with and fulfil the mad plans and commands of red tsars that followed the footsteps of Hitler.

You have come to a country where after the fall of Communism, the largest Jewish community of Central Europe revived Jewish religious and cultural life with unparalleled enthusiasm; the education system they brought to life may be an example to all.

You have come to a country whose proud Jewish residents can freely express their love of Israel and may freely proclaim not to ever forget Jerusalem, the spiritual capital of the united Jewish people.

You have come to a country which - perhaps the first one in the world after Israel - adopted a bill to commemorate the victims of the holocaust and - in line with the measures of the first Orban-cabinet - does a tremendous lot to keep the memory of the holocaust alive, to make the history of the holocaust part of school education.

You have come to a country whose Jewish community is again under threat by horrific ideologies and acts, which are the remnants of the Middle Ages and the holocaust, where an elderly Chief Rabbi is attacked in the street, where Fascists are hailed, where the courts set murderers as role models for the young as squares, and streets are being named after keen anti-Semites, as the works of court poets of Hungarian Nazis are included in the national curriculum and thus polluting the souls of our students.

You have come to a country whose government is in support of the security of the state of Israel and is ready to stand up for the inalienable religious rights of Jews and would never consider placing animal rights before the religious rights of Jews.

**Birou
Parlamentar**



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Blvd. Regina Elisabeta nr. 63, sc. C, et. 6, ap.23, Sector 5, 050015, Bucuresti
www.aurelvainer.ro | aurel.vainer@cdep.ro

+40.742.233.573 mob +40.21.314.77.44 tel
+40.21.313.10.28 fax

You have come to a country, where Jews could live in peace and enjoy the support of the majority of Hungarian society if the holler of the vindictive minority did not suppress their sober and friendly voices.

Two decades ago, the director of MAZSIHISZ, Mr Zoltai, and I used to think that not only did Hungarian Jews have a great past, they also hag a great future ahead of them. What has happened in this country in the past decades has proved that we were not wrong. We are still convinced today that not only is the present of Hungarian Jews great, but so is their future despite the raving of the anti-Semite rabble.

Thank you for coming and being here with us. We are proud to have been found worthy of holding the congress here, to be together, and for you to express your solidarity with the Hungarian Jewry.

I believe that the Jews of the world must unite their forces. This day also shows us that we are not alone, we are all listening to each other no matter where we may be living across the globe. The task we have is no little one to handle.

Hungary and Europe are on the wrong track. As the Prince of Denmark, Hamlet put it: "The time is out of joint: O cursed spite, That ever I was born to set it right!"

Yes, ladies and gentlemen, time is out of joint and only together can we set it right; it is as if we the sounds and voices of the sinister '30s were back again. All of us here tonight, Jews and non-Jews can only succeed in preventing the dark era of anti-Semitism from retuning to Hungary, Europe and the entire world and in ensuring that not a single Jewish person is ever in fear of terror if we unite our forces.

Thank you for your attention, I wish you all a pleasant evening.