

Manifestations of Antisemitism in the EU 2002 - 2003

Part on Austria

Based on information by the
National Focal Points of the
RAXEN Information Network

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¹ The present part on Austria is an integral part of the report on “Manifestations of Antisemitism in the EU 2002 - 2003”, it has been provided in this form for practical reasons (download time), the presentation and the layout are different, while the content remains identical in the main report and this part on Austria. Always refer to the EUMC website. <http://eumc.eu.int> for a copy of the integral report.

AUSTRIA – REPORT ON ANTISEMITISM

Data and information provided for 2002 (with a special focus on the period of May – June) and 2003 by the Austrian RAXEN National Focal Point

PREFACE

There is evidence of Jewish communities in the geographical area today covered by Austria as far back as the 12th century. Most Jews established themselves in Vienna from where they were occasionally expelled to return later. In 1848 Jews were granted civil rights and the right to establish an autonomous religious community, but full citizenship rights were given only in 1867. In an atmosphere of economic, religious and social freedom, the Jewish population grew from 6,000 in 1860 to almost 185,000 in 1938.

In March 1938, Austria was annexed by Nazi Germany and thousands of Austrians and Austrian Jews who opposed Nazi rule were sent to concentration camps. Of the 65,000 Viennese Jews deported to concentration camps, only about 2,000 survived, while around 800 survived the war in hiding.

Today the Jewish community of Austria consists of about 8,000 persons². The 'Jewish Faith' community is the fifth largest recognised religious community in Austria with the status of a corporation under public law. Its main function is to represent the religious interests of Jews living in Austria to the Austrian state.

LEGISLATION WITH RESPECT TO ANTISEMITISM

- The prevailing approach in the Austrian legal system is to see racist discrimination or racist violence as acts deriving from extreme rightwing or National-Socialist ideology. Legislation applicable to racist and xenophobic violence and crimes therefore focuses on crimes in the context of National-Socialist ideology. The Constitutional Act prohibiting the NSDAP (National-Socialist German Workers' Party) (*Verbotsgesetz*; Prohibition Statute³), which was enacted in order to comply with the international obligation resulting from Art 9 of the

² Statistik Austria (2000), Volkszählung 2001. Hauptegebnisse 1 – Österreich, Table 4 Bevölkerung nach Religion (Population according to religion), pp. 58-60, and own calculations.

³ Österreich, StGBI 13/1945, amended version BGBl 148/1992, (19.03.1992)

Vienna Treaty⁴ forms the legal basis for sanctions against racist actions and incitement within the context of (neo-) Nazi ideology.

- Other racist crimes that are not linked to National-Socialist ideology cannot be subsumed under the Prohibition Statute. Sec 33 no. 5 of the Penal Code⁵ states that in cases of offences committed for racist or xenophobic reasons, the motivation is to be investigated in court and considered as an aggravating factor in determining the particular sentence⁶. Section 283 of the Penal Code punishes incitement to hostile action, if someone publicly induces or incites - in a manner likely to endanger public order – the commission of a hostile act against a church or religious community existing in the state or against a group determined by appurtenance to such a church or religious community, race, nation, ethnic group or state. Furthermore, sec 283 prohibits public agitating against such a group or insulting or disparaging it in a manner violating human dignity⁷.
- Sec 3d Prohibition Statute applies as “lex specialis” to those incitements, which are committed on the basis of National-Socialist ideology. Sec 111 and 115 in connection with sec 117 (3) Penal Code prohibit racist or xenophobic verbal attacks directed against an individual person. The Introductory Provisions to the Code of Administrative Procedures (‘Einführungsgesetz zu den Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetzen’, *EGVG*)⁸ provide a legal basis to punish less serious offences compared to those subject to the Prohibition Statute and the Penal Code.
- Also to be included is Section 188 of the Austrian Penal Code, which sanctions especially the degradation of religious doctrines (“Herabwürdigung religiöser Lehren”).

SOURCES OF DATA AND INFORMATION

Government source

Federal Ministry of the Interior

NGOs and Jewish organisation:

⁴ Österreich, BGBl 152/1955, amended version BGBl III Nr. 179/2002, (06.06.2002)

⁵ Österreich, Strafgesetzbuch, BGBl 60/1974 (01.01.1975), amended version BGBl I 134/2002, (13.08.2002)

⁶ Although this provision directly applies to crimes of racist violence, it has been observed that this aggravating factor relating to racist motives is scarcely applied.

⁷ Perpetrators can face up to two years’ imprisonment.

⁸ Österreich, BGBl 50/1991 (31.01.1991), amended version BGBl I 97/2002, (25.06.2002)

- ‘Forum gegen Antisemitismus’ (sub-organisation of the Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien);
- ‘ESRA’;
- ‘Israelitische Kultusgemeinden’ Salzburg, Innsbruck, Graz;
- ‘Israelitische Kultusgemeinde’ Styria, Carinthia and other districts;
- ‘Israelitische Kultusgemeinden’ Tyrol and Vorarlberg;
- ‘Israelitische Kultusgemeinden’ Linz;
- ‘Israelitische Kultusgemeinden’ Salzburg;
- ‘Jewish Synagogue Association of Baden’;
- ‘ZARA’;
- ‘Dokumentationsarchiv des Österreichischen Widerstands’ [DÖW];
- ‘Ökologische Linke’ [OEKOLI];
- ‘Österreichische HochschülerInnenschaft’;
- ‘Coordination Forum for Countering Antisemitism’;
- Journalists.

Media analysis of the following newspapers:

Der Standard, Die Presse, Wiener Zeitung, Salzburger Nachrichten, Kurier, Kleine Zeitung, Oberösterreichische Nachrichten, Zur Zeit, Aula, Der Eckart and Kronen Zeitung.

The Forum against Antisemitism⁹ (FGA) is associated to the Jewish Faith Community in Vienna and functions as a contact point concerning antisemitic incidents for Austria’s Jewish community. The FGA publishes its observations in a “Newsletter”¹⁰. It also offers victims psychological and legal counselling and support in establishing contact with specialists. In this sense, the FGA is a monitoring institution for reported cases. The cases in the data collection of the FGA overlap with those reported by the media, the database of the Coordination Forum for Countering Antisemitism as well as with those recorded by different regional Jewish Faith Communities.

Government reports on state security and the protection of the constitution are the official source of information on antisemitic crime in Austria. The Federal Ministry of the Interior issues data collected in connection with antisemitism under the heading “right-wing extremism” in its annual reports on the protection of the constitution¹¹. Information provided by these reports includes qualitative

⁹ Cf.: <http://www.fga-wien.at>, (09.11.2003)

¹⁰ Available at: http://www.fga-wien.at/archiv_nl.htm, (09.11.2003)

¹¹ These reports can be downloaded on the following web-site:
<http://www.bmi.gv.at/staatsschutz/startseite.asp>, (09.11.2003)

descriptions on the structure and strategies of right-wing extremist groups as the relevant crime statistics.

Compared to governmental sources the FGA¹² reports far more cases of antisemitic incidents. In a press release in September 2003 the FGA reported an increase of 71.43% in antisemitic incidents compared to the same period in 2002. In 2003, 108 cases, including smearing, threats, verbal attacks and physical violence were reported to the FGA¹³.

DATA AND INFORMATION

I. ANTISEMITISM IN 2002

A. PHYSICAL ACTS OF VIOLENCE TOWARDS JEWS OR THEIR PROPERTY

There were no reports on acts of violence against persons in the reporting period.

- ‘ZARA’ reported that one smearing of a swastika in Vienna was reported to them within the monitoring period.
- The Federal Ministry of the Interior reports on the damage of one memorial plaque near the synagogue in St. Pölten, Lower-Austria as an alleged infringement of article 126 StGB (Criminal Code) - serious damage to property.
- **31 July 2002** serious damage was done to the synagogue in Innsbruck, a surveillance camera was destroyed, a memorial plaque torn off, and only days later the synagogue and buildings in its vicinity were smeared with antisemitic slogans¹⁴.

B. VERBAL AGGRESSION, HATE SPEECH AND OTHER FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION TOWARDS JEWS

- The ‘Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Innsbruck’ received one threatening letter addressed to the president and the individual members saying,

¹² Further information available at: <http://www.fga-wien.at> (22.03.2003)

¹³ Press release of the Forum against Antisemitism on 24.09.2003

¹⁴ Tiroler Tageszeitung, (31.07.2002), Vandalenakt vor der Innsbrucker Synagoge (Act of vandalism outside Innsbruck synagogue), p. 9; Tiroler Tageszeitung, (03./04.2002), Schmieranschlag auf Synagoge (Smearing-attack against synagogue); Kurier, Tyrol edition, (03.08.2002), Schmierereien an Innsbrucks Synagoge (Smearings at Innsbruck synagogue), p. 9, available at: http://archiv.kurier.at/act/volltext.htm?schluessel=KURIER_200208030251500150&suche=innsbrucks+synagoge&suchedatum=20020803%7C20031109&simple=, (07.11.2003)

“Jews were not welcome in Tyrol and should go to the USA or Israel, where they belonged”.

- The ‘FGA’ informed the NFP that the ‘Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien’ received 18 threatening letters during the period. Following their assessment most of these incidents involved people of Arabic origin.
- Two incidents of verbal aggression were reported by the Ministry of the Interior in the monitoring period: First a professor at the University of Salzburg received an antisemitic flyer from the USA – the complaint is still under investigation; second a billboard with anti-Jewish slogans was put up in Ried, Upper Austria – the complaint is also still under investigation.
- Three “letters to the editor” containing antisemitic remarks were sent in the reporting period. One accused the Israelis of being themselves responsible for the emerging antisemitism, the other two letters were related to the discussion about the memorial “Siegfriedskopf”.
- An Internet search revealed a report on a farmer in Upper Austria, who put up a billboard in front of his farm saying “Jews are blackmailing the whole world” and “Ariel Sharon is a state terrorist”.
- **13 April 2002** in a demonstration against the exhibition entitled “Crimes of the German Wehrmacht – Dimensions of a War of Annihilation, 1941-1944” half of the participants, most of them skinheads, roamed the inner-city of Vienna yelling “Sieg Heil” and “Germany to the Germans, foreigners out” as well as singing neo-Nazi songs. A video recording gave evidence of these incidents and 36 suspects were reported to the police for allegedly violating the NS-Prohibition Statute. In December 2002, a 19 year-old skinhead was found guilty of violating the Statute and was sentenced to one year suspended imprisonment under the condition of participation in a “training course against right-wing extremism”.
- The ‘Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance’ (DÖW) has observed an increasing presence of Austrian neo-Nazis and skinheads on the Internet during 2002.¹⁵ DÖW regularly documents the connection between revisionism, right-wing extremism and antisemitism.¹⁶

¹⁵ Verstärkte Internet-Präsenz von Neonazis (Increased presence of neo-Nazis on the web), in: Neues von ganz rechts – July 2002, available at: http://www.doew.at/projekte/rechts/chronik/2002_07/web.html, (29.10.2003)

¹⁶ For one case, see: Ochensberger weiter aktiv (Ochensberger continues to be active), in: Neues von ganz rechts – July 2002, available at: http://www.doew.at/projekte/rechts/chronik/2002_07/ochensb.html, (29.10.2003)

C. STUDIES, OPINION POLLS OR OTHER REPORTS ON CHANGES IN ANTISEMITIC SENTIMENTS

The NFP did not encounter any research studies reporting antisemitic violence or opinion polls on changed attitudes towards Jews. A research study dealing with antisemitism was conducted in the second half of the 1990s by Günther Rathner and presented at a press conference in 2002. 46% of the respondents showed a low or a very low tendency towards antisemitism, 35% were neutral and 19% were strongly or very strongly inclined to antisemitism.¹⁷ The NFP did not find any systematic studies or reports dealing with changes in antisemitic attitudes.

D. GOOD PRACTICES FOR REDUCING PREJUDICE, VIOLENCE AND AGGRESSION BY NGOS

The NFP reported a number of good practices primarily aimed at reducing prejudice as well as stimulating public debates closely connected with coming to terms with the past and awareness raising.

- The book “5 questions put to 3 generations: Antisemitism and us today”¹⁸ asks three people belonging to three different generations five questions about antisemitism.¹⁹ The three authors, a doctor belonging to the war-generation, a political scientist born during WWII and a young female academic specialising in civic education answer the questions in a very personal way in an attempt to explain antisemitism.
- A publication by Christoph Lind²⁰ presents Jewish fates in various districts in Lower Austria and analyses “Aryanisation”, disenfranchisement, expulsion and deportation. The book contains many individual biographies, confronts the readers with people who once belonged to their community and works against the anonymity of victims. The author sees his book as a contribution to coming to terms with the past, but also raising awareness for antisemitism.²¹
- The Municipal Museum in Mistelbach started its exhibition “Repressed and Forgotten - The Jews of Mistelbach” on 9 June 2002 showing the

¹⁷ Compare “Fremdenfeindlichkeit in Österreich” (“Xenophobia in Austria”), available at: <http://science.orf.at/science/news/34264>, (15.06.02)

¹⁸ Halhuber, M-J./A. Pelinka/D. Ingruber (2002) “5 Fragen an 3 Generationen: Antisemitismus und wir heute” (5 questions put to 3 generations: Antisemitism and us today), Wien, Czernin

¹⁹ This information was taken from the publishing company’s homepage: <http://www.czernin-verlag.com/>, (15.06.02)

²⁰ Christoph Lind (2002) “... sind wir doch in unserer Heimat als Landmenschen aufgewachsen ...” (“... we have, nevertheless, grown-up in our home-country as rural people ...”), St. Pölten, Landesverlag

²¹ *Kurier* (24.05.02)

development of Jewish settlement since 1867, the life of the former Jewish community and their extinction.

- The Jewish Museum Hohenems started its exhibition “The Rosenthals; Collage of a Family History” with stories about a Jewish family formerly living in the Hohenems region and now scattered all over the world.
- **In 2001** the municipality of Salzburg put up a memorial plaque for Theodor Herzl reading: “In Salzburg I spent some of the happiest hours of my life. Dr. Theodor Herzl, 1860-1904.” Federal President Klestil informed Heinz Schaden, the mayor of Salzburg that he would prefer to see the complete quotation from Herzl’s diary: “So I would have loved to stay in this beautiful city, but, being a Jew, I would have never been awarded with the position of a judge.” In his letter, President Klestil wrote, “especially in Austria we must treat the memory of Theodor Herzl with special sensitivity.”²² This was the starting point of a debate involving the ‘Israelitische Kultusgemeinden’ of Salzburg and Vienna and ending with an agreement on completing the text on 10 June 2002.²³
- **24 May 2002** Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, visited the former concentration camp in Auschwitz in the course of her visit to Poland.²⁴ In her speech, she stressed that “it was not easy for Austria to confess that many of our compatriots have been perpetrators, accomplices or people who shared the knowledge of what was happening (...) we must learn from Auschwitz that we cannot watch inactively where antisemitism, hatred and intolerance occur.”
- **On 12 June 2002** Ariel Muzicant, President of the ‘Israelitische Kultusgemeinde’ and Josef Pühringer, chairman of the ‘Landeshauptleutekonferenz’ (Council of the nine Governors of the federal provinces), signed a restitution treaty. The treaty states that the federal provinces will pay €18.1 million to the ‘Israelitische Kultusgemeinde’ for property belonging to the Jewish communities and expropriated or destroyed during the Nazi-regime. The treaty cannot come into force, though, before the two class-action laws in the USA are dropped.²⁵

E. REACTIONS BY POLITICIANS AND OTHER OPINION LEADERS

- The president of the Parliament of the Federal Province of Vienna and representative of the SPÖ, referred to Ariel Sharon as a “state terrorist” in replying to a letter to the Israeli organisation ‘Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael’, who had invited him to a ball. He was criticised for his

²² *Der Standard* (05.06.02)

²³ *Der Standard* (11.06.02)

²⁴ *Kurier* (25.05.2002) and *Der Standard* (25/26. 05.2002)

²⁵ Compare *Der Standard* (13.06.02)

statement by senior representatives of the SPÖ, but it was also suggested that criticising Israeli politics should not be defamed as antisemitism.

II. ANTISEMITISM IN 2003

The NFP comments on the difficulty of giving a precise picture of the situation concerning antisemitism, as there is presently no specialised body monitoring complaints about racist violence and considering that most incidents of everyday discrimination are not reported to the police. Thus, they suggest, there is a great lack of consistent and nationwide data on recorded complaints regarding racial, ethnic and religious discrimination in general and antisemitic discrimination in particular.

F. EXTREME VIOLENCE: ANY ATTACK POTENTIALLY CAUSING LOSS OF LIFE

- **10 February 2003** the FGA recorded an attack by four skinheads on a man in the Vienna underground. They started to harass him by holding a poster with swastikas and “Heil Hitler” slogans in his face, and then one of the skinheads beat him with a belt. None of the other passengers tried to help. Luckily, the police were present, arrested the skinheads and recorded the complaint. The case is pending in court.
- **In July 2003** the FGA recorded a violent attack against an orthodox Jew in Vienna who was violently beaten to such an extent that he lost consciousness. Afterwards he asked passers by for the telephone number of the police, but received no reply. Later he went to the police to file a complaint.

G. ASSAULT: ANY PHYSICAL ATTACK DIRECTED AGAINST PEOPLE, WHICH IS NOT A THREAT TO LIFE

- **10 May 2003** the FGA recorded an attack by skinheads against a rabbi. The attackers splashed beer on him, threw a bottle at him and kicked him. The rabbi tried to defend himself and a shopkeeper with help from another managed to take the two skinheads to a nearby restaurant and hold them until the police arrived ten minutes later and interrogated the skinheads but no further action has been taken.²⁶
- **1 July 2003** the Coordination Forum for Countering Antisemitism²⁷ recorded an attack on a family identifiable as Jewish that was prevented from entering a restaurant by its Muslim owners. In the ensuing brawl

²⁶ See for example: ORF-ON, (16.06.2003), Antisemitisch motivierter Übergriff (Antisemitically motivated assault), available at:

<http://wien.orf.at/oesterreich.orf?read=detail&channel=1&id=259401>, (16.05.2003)

²⁷ Cf.: <http://www.antiSemitism.org.il/showArticle.asp?ID=5989>, (09.11.2003)

members of the family were beaten up by others customers of the restaurant. The police arrived and took statements from both sides²⁸.

H. DAMAGE AND DESECRATION OF PROPERTY

- The Jewish Faith Community of Innsbruck and the FGA recorded a case of desecration in Western Austria concerning a shopkeeper of Jewish descent who complained about stickers covering the windows of his shop with swastikas and text reading: “We are back”; “Jews are our misfortune” and “Aryans only”. The stickers also bore the name “NSDAP-AO” (Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei Aufbauorganisation), and the PO box of the organisation. The police recorded the incident.

I. THREATS, VERBAL OR WRITTEN.

8 April 2003 the Coordination Forum for Countering Antisemitism recorded a bomb threat at a Jewish school²⁹.

J. ABUSIVE BEHAVIOUR

The NFP suggests that abusive behaviour, including antisemitic smearing, constitutes the most frequently reported form of antisemitic incidents in Austria³⁰.

- **In October 2002** a Jewish family complained to the FGA about constant harassment by neighbours including statements such as: “I kill you Jews” “I hate Jews” “You are supposed to be burnt” “Gypsies, fucking Jews, foreigners go home”.³¹
- **19 November 2002** an article on a statement by the President of the Jewish Faith Community, Ariel Muzicant, was published on the Internet edition of the daily ‘Die Presse’, the headline reading “Muzicant: we need immigrants”. Readers reacted with hundreds of antisemitic and revisionist postings. The postings remained online for four days, each

²⁸ Two more violent incidents during the reporting period are recorded in the database of The Coordination Forum for Countering Antisemitism, see the data base entries: “Austria – Jew was Beaten in Vienna”, available at:

<http://www.antiSemitism.org.il/showArticle.asp?ID=6929>, (09.11.2003), and: “Austria – Skinheads Attack a Jew Leaving a Synagogue in Vienna”, available at: <http://www.antiSemitism.org.il/showArticle.asp?ID=5480>, (09.11.2003)

²⁹ Cf.: <http://www.antiSemitism.org.il/showArticle.asp?ID=5293>, (09.11.2003)

³⁰ The Jewish Faith Community of Graz reported no cases of abusive behaviour.

³¹ The case is documented in: ZARA (2003), Racism Report 2002: Case Report on Racist Incidents and Structures in Austria, Focus: civil courage, Wien, available at: http://www.zara.or.at/download/rass_rep_2002_e.pdf, (14.06.2003), p. 38

day some of them were removed after the FGA and ZARA urged the editor to do so.

- **15 October 2002** antisemitic graffiti was smeared near the office of the President of the Jewish Community in Austria³².
- **Since December 2002** 19 graffiti in Vienna were reported to ZARA, most of them included a swastika, few of them “Jews out” or other antisemitic agitation³³.
- Representatives of the Jewish Community are regularly targets of hate mail. The Coordination Forum for Countering Antisemitism reports an antisemitic letter to the Salzburg Jewish Community³⁴ in which the “world Jewish conspiracy” was blamed for “staging the attacks of 11 September” and four cases of shouting of antisemitic abuse³⁵.

K. ANTISEMITIC LITERATURE

Right-wing extremist groups and parties and their publications are closely monitored by DÖW³⁶ which has reported an increase in anti-American and antisemitic agitation by German and Austrian neo-Nazis since the beginning of the war against Iraq³⁷.

Antisemitism in the press

Statements propagating theories of a worldwide “Jewish conspiracy” and Holocaust denial are found mainly in the following publications:

- ‘Zur Zeit’ published weekly by ‘FPÖ’ members,
- ‘Aula’ edited monthly by the ‘National-freiheitliche Akademikerverbände Österreichs’, an umbrella organisation of the ‘national-liberal fraternities’,
- ‘Fakten’ published by the group ‘Die Kritischen Demokraten’,
- ‘HALT’ published by Gerd Honsik,
- ‘Der Patriot’ published by Karl Steinhauser

³² Cf.: <http://www.antiSemitism.org.il/showArticle.asp?ID=3456>, (09.11.2003)

³³ The material was provided to the NFP by ZARA, although these incidents have not been published yet.

³⁴ Cf.: <http://www.antiSemitism.org.il/showArticle.asp?ID=4687>, (09.11.2003)

³⁵ Cf.: <http://www.antiSemitism.org.il/showArticle.asp?ID=4657>, <http://www.antisemitism.org.il/showArticle.asp?ID=4659>, <http://www.antiSemitism.org.il/showArticle.asp?ID=4685>, and <http://www.antiSemitism.org.il/showArticle.asp?ID=4551>, (09.11.2003)

³⁶ See the website defence of an arrested right wing extremist Solidarität mit Fröhlich (Solidarity with Fröhlich), in: Neues von ganz rechts – July 2003, available at: <http://www.doew.at>, (08.11.2003)

³⁷ Neonazis mobilisieren gegen Irak-Krieg (Neo-Nazis mobilise against the Iraq-war), in: Neues von ganz rechts – March 2003, available at: http://www.doew.at/projekte/rechts/chronik/2003_03/antisem.html, (06.11.2003)

- 'Der Eckart' published monthly by the 'Österreichische Landsmannschaften'.

Examples of antisemitic texts

In June 2002, members of the University of Vienna received an antisemitic pamphlet headed "The Jewish question in America in the 20th century" containing antisemitic and revisionist references, like "the nature of the Jews", "denial of the Holocaust", "domination of politics and the media", "initiators of modern art and emancipation of women", etc. Several of the recipients informed DÖW³⁸.

The 'Arbeitsgemeinschaft für demokratische Politik' edited an antisemitic pamphlet entitled "Near East crisis area", which was disseminated by a local branch of the FPÖ in Lower Austria. The pamphlet describes Jews as "masters of loans and credits" who "profit from the wars between the world powers"³⁹.

L. CHANGES IN THE ATTITUDE OF THE EU POPULATION TOWARDS JEWS

No specific studies are mentioned by the NFP, but the experiences of the Jewish Faith Communities in Austria draw an ambivalent picture: on the one hand, the general climate is described as very positive and improving by the communities of Graz and Innsbruck; on the other hand, also in Innsbruck, they suggest that the atmosphere in discussions connected to the question of restitution is ambivalent.

The FGA suggested that three main developments influence the climate for the Jewish community of Austria:

Firstly, since the beginning of public discussion during 2003 concerning restitution and restitution payments to the Jewish Faith Community as compensation for victims of war crimes, a growing extent of antisemitic attitudes towards Jewish citizens and Jewish institutions – in particular the Jewish Faith Community – has been felt. The reactions to the negotiations are reflected both in abuse directed against "Jews" as a collective and also very often directly against Dr. Ariel Muzicant, President of the Jewish Faith Community.

Secondly, the aggravated situation in the Middle East is also contributing to a negative attitude towards Jewish citizens. The FGA assumes that this is because many still do not make the distinction

³⁸ Antisemitisches Pamphlet (Antisemitic pamphlet), in: Neues von ganz rechts – July 2002, available at: http://www.doew.at/projekte/rechts/chronik/2002_07/uni1.html, (29.10.2003).

³⁹ FPÖ wirbt mit Antisemitismus (FPÖ promotes antisemitism), in: Neues von ganz rechts – November 2002, available at: http://www.doew.at/projekte/rechts/chronik/2002_11/fpoe3.html, (29.10.2003).

between the state of Israel and Jews and hold their Jewish fellow citizens responsible for events in the Middle East. The FGA also argues that social acceptance of right-wing extremism is growing.

A similar observation can be made for the growing acceptance of antisemitism in all walks of life, including the scientific community. The taboo against open antisemitism is weakening, but has not disappeared, and camouflaged, “coded” antisemitism is a significant phenomenon. A book published in 2001 by the renowned Viennese academic Ruth Wodak collects personal experiences of antisemitism in everyday life, which are valid just as much today as at the time of its publication⁴⁰.

M. RESEARCH STUDIES OR OPINION POLLS REPORTING ANTISEMITIC VIOLENCE OR ATTITUDES

Two branches of research are considered: Research on current phenomena of antisemitism including recent developments and opinion polls, and historical research especially concerning the period of WWII, which plays an important role in raising awareness and combating antisemitism.

Research related to current forms of antisemitism and opinion polls

- In “Antisemitism in Austria after 1945”⁴¹ different authors try to explore antisemitism and fill some gaps in existing research.
- The research institute FESSEL+GfK⁴² has conducted an annual survey on the historical perceptions in relation to the Nazi-regime of Austrians older than 14 since 1979. The proportion of the respondents who were of the opinion that the Holocaust is “historically not proven” has rarely fallen below eight per cent during that period.
- A study commissioned by the University of Linz aimed at measuring the significance of attitudes towards antisemitism, the rebirth of Nazi ideology, right-wing extremism and other forms of deviance through the severity of their punishment. Among the 25 issues included in the survey in December 2002, the rebirth of Nazi ideology and right-wing extremism ranked tenth and antisemitism fifteenth among the offences that should be more severely punished. Almost 33% of the interviewees supported more severe punishment for rightwing extremism and almost

⁴⁰ Wodak, R. (ed.), (2001), “Das kann einem nur in Wien passieren” (This can only happen to you in Vienna), Vienna: Czernin Verlag

⁴¹ Wassermann H. P. (ed.) (2003), Antisemitismus in Österreich nach 1945 (Antisemitism in Austria after 1945), Innsbruck: Studienverlag.

⁴² A diagrammatic representation of these results can be found at: http://www.gfk.at/research_data/free_download/files/DATA/holo_02.gif, (27.10.2003).

20% for antisemitism. The number of respondents favouring less severe punishment for both categories decreased between 1998 and 2002.

- A recent Eurobarometer survey showed that nearly 60% of Europeans thought that Israel presented a threat to world peace, which is more than for any other country in the survey⁴³. Although the interpretation of this result is problematic⁴⁴ it should be noted that the percentage of Austrian respondents perceiving Israel as a threat to world peace is 69%, which is higher than the average of the EU15 and second only to the Netherlands (74%)⁴⁵.

N. GOOD PRACTICES FOR REDUCING PREJUDICE, VIOLENCE AND AGGRESSION BY NGOS

- The Jewish Faith Communities are engaged in combating antisemitism as civil society actors. In addition to that the Psychosocial Center 'ESRA'⁴⁶ founded in 1994 offers medical, therapeutic and social services to victims of the Shoah and their relatives. It also provides advice and support for Jewish people living in Vienna and tries to ease the integration process for Jewish immigrants.
- The Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Culture established a pool of witnesses for the period of WWII for the project 'Contemporary Witnesses – Network Service' for speakers on contemporary history⁴⁷. Schools can invite victims of National Socialism to talk about the Third Reich and the Holocaust. The pool covers different victim groups: – people persecuted on political, religious and racial grounds. It should be noted that the weekly 'Zur Zeit' has started a counter-initiative setting up a pool of contemporary witnesses aiming at the dissemination of the "historical truth"⁴⁸.
- In 2003, the large scale project 'Letter to the Stars'⁴⁹ tried to involve a great number of pupils with the personal history of victims of the Holocaust by distributing data on thousands of individual victims to pupils across Austria and inviting them to dedicate their time and

⁴³ In the course of this poll 7,515 EU citizens were interviewed by telephone between October 8 and the 16, 2003. In Austria 500 respondents were interviewed. EOS Gallup Europe (2003) Flash Eurobarometer 151 "Iraq and peace in the world", pp. 3, 113, available at: http://europa.eu.int/comm/public_opinion/flash/fl151_iraq_full_report.pdf, (09.11.2003)

⁴⁴ For different reactions see: BBC News (03.11.2003) Israeli anger over EU 'threat' poll, available at: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/3237277.stm, (09.11.2003)

⁴⁵ EOS Gallup Europe (2003) op. cit., p. 81

⁴⁶ For more information see: <http://www.esra.at>, (09.11.2003)

⁴⁷ ZeitzeugInnen – ReferentInnenvermittlungsdienst zur Zeitgeschichte, for more information see: <http://www.bmbwk.gv.at/start.asp?OID=1938&isllink=1&bereich=2&gwort=>, (09.11.2003)

⁴⁸ Die „historische Wahrheit“ von Zur Zeit (The „historical truth“ of Zur Zeit), Zur Zeit (21/2003) cited in: Neues von ganz rechts – June 2003, available at: http://www.doew.at/projekte/rechts/chronik/2003_06/zurzeit.html, (06.11.2003)

⁴⁹ Cf. <http://www.lettertothestars.at>, (13.03.2003). [ACTAT0002]

thoughts to the fates of these individuals; 15,000 pupils in 500 schools participated in the project that received a lot of public attention as one of the biggest school projects in relation to the Holocaust, but was criticised for its superficiality and accused of sensationalism⁵⁰.

- **6 November 2003** the Protestant Academy held a seminar “Antisemitism; old – new” on in connection with the memorial week of the November Pogrom of 1938⁵¹. The programme included an interactive part on stereotypes and prejudices in relation to Jews, a lecture on old and new antisemitism as well as secondary antisemitism and an interactive group activity concerning the reproduction of antisemitic stereotypes.

O. REACTIONS BY POLITICIANS AND OTHER OPINION LEADERS INCLUDING INITIATIVES TO REDUCE POLARISATION AND COUNTERACT NEGATIVE NATIONAL TRENDS

In May 2003 a public debate on the financial contribution of the Austrian Republic to the Jewish Faith Community arose. Presently, only 8%–9% of the Community’s activities are supported by state funding⁵² whereas in Germany around 80% of the Jewish Faith Community costs are funded by the state⁵³. Due to the Community’s high level of debts, Ariel Muzicant, President of the Community, claims additional subsidies of €2.7 million a year. A governmental proposal linked the payment of subsidies with the restitutions claims of the Community against the Federal Provinces which would have resulted in the payment of €9 million out of the €18.2 millions the Community is entitled to. As legal issues are still pending, several provinces did not agree on a advanced payment.

⁵⁰ Cf. the discussion conducted at <http://www.diejuedische.at>, (06.05.2003). [PUBAT0047]

⁵¹ E-mail from the *Evangelische Akademie*, October 28, 2003.

⁵² Grissemann, S., Horowitz, N. (2003) Auf Messers Schneide (Balancing on a knife’s edge), in: profil, (21.07.2003), p. 122.

⁵³ Ibid.

CONCLUSIONS

The NFP describes the difficulty in giving a precise overview of antisemitism as there is no specialised body to record incidents and a lack of consistency in recording complaints of racial discrimination in general and antisemitism in particular. One NGO source reports more cases than official sources, with an apparent increase of over 70% of antisemitic incidents in 2003 compared to the same period in 2002. Altogether 108 cases were reported in 2003. There were two recorded cases of extremely violent attacks in 2003, and two other less serious assaults. There were several other incidents of damage to synagogues, and vandalism to cemeteries, but the most frequent type of antisemitic incident appears to be abusive behaviour and graffiti. The publication of a study on Austrian opinions carried out in the late 1990s showed that 19% were strongly or very strongly inclined to antisemitism. The NFP concludes that in Austria the taboo against antisemitism is weakening, but has not disappeared, and a kind of camouflaged, encoded antisemitism is now common. Acts of violence are relatively rare. It seems that Austrian antisemitism is characterised by diffuse and traditional antisemitic stereotypes rather than by acts of physical aggression.

ANNEX I ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS, WEB PAGES, AND LITERATURE ON ANTISEMITISM

DIVERSE DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS

- Dr. Jeffrey Kaplan: “Racism, Anti-Semitism and Violence: The Local Studies Perspective.” The Stockholm International Forum 2001.
- Lawyers Committee for Human Rights: “Fire and Broken Glass - The Rise of Anti-Semitism in Europe.” Washington D.C. 2002.
- Union des Etudiants Juifs de France, SOS-Racisme: Les Antifeujs. Paris : Calmann-Lévy, 2002.
- Anti-Defamation League: European Attitudes Towards Jews, Israel and the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict. June 2002.
- Anti-Defamation League: European Attitudes Towards Jews: A Five Country Survey. October 2002.
- CNCDDH (Commission Nationale Consultative des Droits de l’Homme): La lutte contre le racisme et la Xénophobie. Rapport d’activité 2002, Paris 2003.

WEB PAGES⁵⁴

Not country specific

*The American Jewish Committee: <http://www.ajc.org/german/ueber.asp>

*The Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Anti-Semitism and Racism at Tel Aviv University: <http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/>

*BBC NEWS Europe: Viewpoints Anti-Semitism and Europe:
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/3234264.stm>

*Centre Européen Juif d’Information (CEJI): <http://www.ceji.org/index2.html>

*International Network Against Cyber Hate: <http://www.inach.net/>

*The Coordination Forum for Countering Antisemitism:
<http://www.antisemitism.org.il/>

⁵⁴ Only those Web sites marked with a star * were consulted for the present report.

Germany

*ZfA - Zentrum für Antisemitismusforschung: <http://www.tu-berlin.de/~zfa/>

*European forum for migration studies (efms): <http://www.uni-bamberg.de/~ba6ef3/home.html>

*Juden.de: <http://www.juden.de/>

*Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland: <http://www.zentralratjuden.de/>

*HaGalil onLine: <http://www.antisemitismus.net/>

ANNEX II EUMC GUIDELINES - CATEGORISATION OF DATA ON ANTISEMITISM

EUMC GUIDELINES IN 2002:

Since the recent wave of violence in Israel the EUMC is increasingly worried about the increase of antisemitic acts in several European Member States. It would like to use the RAXEN Rapid Response Function to get solid information about antisemitic violence. We would like you to answer the following questions:

- A. PHYSICAL ACTS OF VIOLENCE TOWARDS JEWS, THEIR COMMUNITIES, ORGANISATIONS OR THEIR PROPERTY (CEMETERIES, SYNAGOGUES, RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS ETC) AND ALSO ANY MEASURES SEEN AS RETALIATION TO OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS, OR ETHNIC, CULTURAL, AND RELIGIOUS MINORITIES, OR NEW TYPES OF VICTIMS:

Have any physical attacks (harassment, verbal abuse, violent acts, etc.) against Jews (or other people related to them) been reported (in the media, by Jewish organizations, by human right/anti-discrimination NGOs, by the police etc.)? Please use the following categories as headlines:

Arson; throwing objects and/or tear gas; physical aggression; theft and burglary; vandalism and disparagement; threatening intrusion; physical threat

- B. VERBAL AGGRESSION/HATE SPEECH AND OTHER, SUBTLER FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION TOWARDS JEWS:

Have there been any verbal attacks against Jews in the media, in the public discourse, in politics? Are there any cases of incitement to hatred? Are there court cases to be reported? What about hate speech on the Internet? Please use the following categories as headlines: direct verbal threat; threats by telephone; insults; graffiti and antisemitic inscriptions; publicly distributed leaflets

- C. CHANGES IN THE ATTITUDE OF THE EU POPULATION TOWARDS JEWS, THEIR COMMUNITIES, ORGANISATIONS OR THEIR PROPERTY (CEMETERIES, SYNAGOGUES, OTHER RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL SYMBOLS ETC):

- D. ARE THERE STUDIES OR OTHER REPORTS DEALING WITH CHANGES IN ANTISEMITIC SENTIMENTS?

What are the results? Are there any other changes in attitudes linked to the increase in antisemitism?

- E. RESEARCH STUDIES REPORTING ANTISEMITIC VIOLENCE OR OPINION POLLS ON CHANGED ATTITUDES TOWARDS JEWS:

Are there any new or recent report done on antisemitic aggression or attitudes?

- F. GOOD PRACTICES FOR REDUCING PREJUDICE, VIOLENCE AND AGGRESSION BY NGOS:

Can you report of any good practice that has been successful in avoiding the increase of prejudice and violence towards Jewish people and other groups?

- G. REACTIONS BY POLITICIANS AND OTHER OPINION LEADERS INCLUDING INITIATIVES TO REDUCE POLARIZATION AND COUNTERACT NEGATIVE NATIONAL TRENDS:

How has the Government reacted to increased antisemitic violence? What have been the reactions of the politicians and other opinion leaders? Are there any institutionalized proposals and implementations to be observed?

The information provided should be of a factual character. Sources should always be quoted; there should be a balanced mix of sources (state organizations, organizations related to Jewish communities; other NGOs; mass media; Internet) to get as far as possible an “objective, reliable and comparable” picture of the situation in the Member State. Please indicate if the articles are reported as news or as the opinion of an opinion leader (politicians, representatives of religious communities, other people of public interest like

movie stars or sport champions etc), or even as opinions expressed in the “reader’s pages”. Any original material to which reference is made in the report should be attached (newspaper articles, etc.).

IMPORTANT NOTE:

“Non-events” should also be reported. The report shall not include personal data. Please try to follow as closely as possible the recommendations attached.

EUMC GUIDELINES IN 2003:

The EUMC ask you to present the data and information **related to antisemitic incidents in a separate text.**

This separate document should be structured **as far as possible** along the following categories and definitions on antisemitism established by Michael Whine (For Categories 1 to 6 see: <http://www.axt.org.uk/essays/Whine.htm>).

A. EXTREME VIOLENCE:

Any attack potentially causing loss of life.

B. ASSAULT:

Any physical attack directed against people, which is not a threat to life.

C. DAMAGE AND DESECRATION OF PROPERTY:

Any physical attack against Jewish property, which is not life threatening.

D. THREATS:

Includes only clear threats, whether verbal or written.

E. ABUSIVE BEHAVIOUR:

Face -to-face, telephone and targeted abusive/antisemitic letters (i.e. those aimed at and sent to a specific individual) as opposed to a mail shot of antisemitic literature, which will be included under Category 4. Antisemitic graffiti on non-Jewish property is also included in this category.

F. LITERATURE:

Includes distribution of antisemitic literature, based on the following criteria:

- the content must be antisemitic (except see (d) below)
- the recipient may be either Jewish or non-Jewish
- the literature must be part of a mass distribution, as opposed to the directed at a specific individual
- Racist literature that is not antisemitic is included when it is clear that Jews are being deliberately targeted for recipient because they are Jews (implying an antisemitic motive behind the distribution)
- It should be noted that the statistics for this category give no indication of the extent of distribution. Mass mailings of propaganda are only counted as one incident, although antisemitic leaflets have been circulated to hundreds and possibly thousands of Jewish and non-Jewish individuals and organizations.

G. CHANGES IN THE ATTITUDE OF THE EU POPULATION TOWARDS JEWS, THEIR COMMUNITIES, ORGANISATIONS OR THEIR PROPERTY (CEMETERIES, SYNAGOGUES, OTHER RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL SYMBOLS ETC):

Are there studies or other reports dealing with changes in antisemitic sentiments? What are the results? Are there any other changes in attitudes linked to the increase in antisemitism?

H. RESEARCH STUDIES REPORTING ANTISEMITIC VIOLENCE OR OPINION POLLS ON CHANGED ATTITUDES TOWARDS JEWS:

Are there any new or recent report done on antisemitic aggression or attitudes?

I. GOOD PRACTICES FOR REDUCING PREJUDICE, VIOLENCE AND AGGRESSION BY NGOS:

Can you report of any good practice that has been successful in avoiding the increase of prejudice and violence towards Jewish people and other groups?

J. REACTIONS BY POLITICIANS AND OTHER OPINION LEADERS INCLUDING INITIATIVES TO REDUCE POLARIZATION AND COUNTERACT NEGATIVE NATIONAL TRENDS:

How has the Government reacted to increased antisemitic violence? What have been the reactions of the politicians and other opinion leaders? Are there any institutionalised proposals and implementations to be observed?