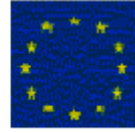




Konrad  
Adenauer  
Stiftung



## Anti-Semitism and its Evolution in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, the AJC Transatlantic Institute and the  
Israeli Mission to the European Union

**27 January 2012**

Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Avenue de l'Yser 11, 1040 Bruxelles

### Programme

**9h00 - Welcome**

**9h15 – Introductory remarks**

**Dr. Hans-Gert Pöttering MEP**, Chairman Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung / Former President of the European Parliament

**9h30 – First Roundtable | “Iranian Anti-Semitism and its Global Export”**

*This session will examine how Iran has elevated Jew hatred to a central plank of its ideology. Fusing European anti-Semitism— from Holocaust-denial to the “ Protocols of the Elders of Zion”— with selective quotations from the Koran, Tehran promotes a violent form of anti-Semitism. Often only thinly masked as anti-Zionism, Iran spreads its message both internally as well as globally through its allies like Hamas, Hezbollah and their media outlets. The depth of this anti-Semitism is often ignored, played down or rationalized in the West. Has this failure to acknowledge a major trend in Middle East politics helped to perpetuate it? Has it perhaps also led to foreign policy mistakes or misperceptions? Does Europe need to adjust its own approach towards the Middle East Peace Process and the Iranian regime? These are some of the questions this session will try to tackle.*

Introductory statements by

**Gideon Behar** (Amb. Director of the department for combating anti-Semitism, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel)

**Dr. Matthias Küntzel** (Vidal Sassoon International Center for the Study of Antisemitism)

## **11h00 – Coffee Break**

## **11h15 – Second Roundtable | “Emerging Trends in Anti-Semitism in Europe”**

*This session will examine the newest, most prevalent trends in European Anti-Semitism, in which Israel has replaced the Jew as the object of hatred. Traditional anti-Semitic themes, such as medieval blood libels, re-emerge in the form of accusations that Israelis are harvesting organs from Palestinians. Holocaust inversion, the portrayal of Israelis as modern-day Nazis, is an extreme but increasingly widespread manifestation of this phenomenon. In a recent University of Bielefeld Study in seven European countries, between 38% and 63% of participants agreed with the statement that “Israel is conducting a war of extermination against the Palestinians.” When does legitimate criticism of Israel cross the threshold toward anti-Semitism that hides behind supposedly political commentary? Have policy makers spoken out loud enough against this sort of Israel-bashing? Does the lack of European support in international fora, where Israel is often singled out for special opprobrium, fuel the notion that the Jewish state is beyond the pale? Has Israel failed to tell and sell its side of the story? These and other questions will be discussed in this roundtable.*

Introductory statements by

**Rabbi Andrew Baker** (Personal Representative of the Chairperson on combating Anti-Semitism, OSCE)

**Prof. Guy Haarscher** (Président du Centre de Philosophie du Droit, Université libre de Bruxelles)

## **12h30 – Concluding Remarks**

**Daniel Schwammenthal**, AJC Transatlantic Institute

## **12h45 – Buffet lunch**