

PRESS ABOUT TOLERANCE DAYS			
1.	04.11.2008	prnewswire.com	70TH ANNIVERSARY OF 'KRISTALLNACHT': BRUSSELS: TOLERANCE ON THE EUROPEAN AGENDA
2.	04.11.2008	Reuters News	POLITICAL AND GENERAL NEWS EVENTS FROM NOV 4
3.	05.11.2008	MarketWatch	70TH ANNIVERSARY OF 'KRISTALLNACHT': BRUSSELS: TOLERANCE ON THE EUROPEAN AGENDA
4.	05.11.2008	FR-online.de, Germany	WAS EUROPAS JUDEN BEUNRUHIGT
5.	05.11.2008	FR-online.de, Germany	WHAT WORRIES EUROPE'S JEWS
6.	06.11.2008	Şalom, Turkey	KRISTALLNACHT'IN 70. YILI ANILIYOR
7.	08.11.2008	European Jewish Press	CAPITAL OF EUROPE MARKS 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF 'KRISTALLNACHT' AND PROMOTES TOLERANCE
8.	09.11.2008	ITAR-TASS	LA RUSSIE ET L'UE DOIVENT COMBATTRE LA XENOPHOBIE
9.	10.11.2008	Jerusalem Post	MUSLIM STATES TO REMEMBER KRISTALLNACHT
10.	10.11.2008	European Jewish Press	KANTOR: 70 YEARS AFTER KRISTALLNACHT LIFE OF THE JEWS STILL THREATENED BY INTOLERANCE
11.	10.11.2008	Ha'aretz	MERKEL: WE MUST NOT REMAIN SILENT
12.	10.11.2008	Aurora, Israel	ESTADOS MUSULMANES RECUERDAN LA KRISTALLNACHT
13.	10.11.2008	ynet.co.il	נאצים מאשר יהודים-באירופה יש יותר ניא
14.	10.11.2008	ynet.co.il	תונלבוס הצור הפוריא :חלודבה לילל הנש 70
15.	10.11.2008	ynet.co.il	הפרלמנט האירופי קיים כינוס במלאות 07 שנה לילל הבדולח
16.	10.11.2008	Arouts 7, Israel	LE PRÉSIDENT DU CONGRÈS JUIF EUROPÉEN EST INQUIET
17.	10.11.2008	Salon 24, Poland	KRYZTAŁOWE OLEWKI
18.	10.11.2008	ITAR-TASS	RF, EU SHOULD POOL EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE XENOPHOBIA - VIEW
19.	10.11.2008	Agencia Judía de Noticias, Argentina	EL PRESIDENTE DEL CONGRESO JUDÍO EUROPEO ADVIRTIÓ SOBRE LA POSIBILIDAD DE UN SEGUNDO HOLOCAUSTO
20.	10.11.2008	Jewish Telegraphic Agency	KRISTALLNACHT REMEMBRANCES VISIT TODAY'S CONCERNS
21.	10.11.2008	Terra España, Spain	LA UE RECUERDA LA 'NOCHE DE LOS CRISTALES ROTOS' Y LLAMA A LA TOLERANCIA
22.	10.11.2008	Onet.pl, Poland	KWAŚNIEWSKI: ANTYSEMITYZM SIĘ NIE SKOŃCZYŁ
23.	10.11.2008	sueddeutsche.de, Germany	SCHLECHTER ALS VOR 60 JAHREN

24.	10.11.2008	Earthtimes	EUROPEAN JEWS: OUR SITUATION WORSE THAN 60 YEARS AGO
25.	10.11.2008	Jewish Telegraphic Agency	REMEMBERING KRISTALLNACHT IN BRUSSELS
26.	10.11.2008	The Associated Press	NEW EFFORT LAUNCHED TO FIGHT ANTI-SEMITISM
27.	10.11.2008	Assembly.coe.int	ONE LESSON OF KRISTALLNACHT: THE DANGER OF INTOLERANCE IN HARD TIMES
28.	10.11.2008	Seeking Truth News	JEWISH AND EUROPEAN LEADERS AT A KRISTALLNACHT COMMEMORATION IN BRUSSELS CALLED FOR NEW EFFORTS TO COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM AND INTOLERANCE
29.	10.11.2008	Haaretz.com	AT A MEMORIAL CONCERT HELD LATER YESTERDAY IN BRUSSELS, SPEAKERS DREW A COMPARISON BETWEEN THE NAZI GERMANY OF THE 1930S AND TODAY'S ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
30.	11.11.2008	Ynetnews, Israel	KRISTALLNACHT REMEMBERED AT BRUSSELS
31.	11.11.2008	kna-bild.de	EUROPÄISCHER JÜDISCHER KONGRESS WARNT VOR ANTISEMITISMUS
32.	11.11.2008	Aurora, Israel	RECORDARON LA NOCHE DE LOS CRISTALES ROTOS EN BRUSELAS
33.	11.11.2008	The Wall Street Journal	'TOLERANCE' IS NOT THE LESSON OF KRISTALLNACHT
34.	11.11.2008	World War 4 Report, NY	MUSLIM STATES TO JOIN EU KRISTALLNACHT MEMORIAL
35.	11.11.2008	israelnetz.com	EU-GEDENKEN AN POGROMNACHT VON 1938
36.	11.11.2008	European Jewish Press	BELGIAN PM: 'WE MUST BE AWAKEFUL FOR A NEW ANTI-ZIONISM THAT IS A HIDDEN ANTI-SEMITISM'
37.	11.11.2008	Jewish Telegraphic Agency	IS TOLERANCE AND RECONCILIATION ENOUGH?
38.	11.11.2008	Ha'aretz	הושקה המועצה האירופית לסובלנות ופיוס
39.	12.11.2008	Baltimore Jewish Times	KRISTALLNACHT VISITS TODAY'S CONCERNS
40.	13.11.2008	Israeli Week	מדינות מוסלמיות ישתתפו 'בטכס ליל הבדולח'
41.	13.11.2008	The UK Jewish Press	KRISTALLNACHT REMEMBERED BY COMMUNITY
42.	14.11.2008	Jewish Chronicle	ARAB ENVOYS FLOCK TO EUROPEAN UNION KRISTALLNACHT MEMORIAL
43.	14.11.2008	ka-city.de	GESCHICHTE: WACHSAMKEIT AUCH IN ZUKUNFT GEFORDERT - 70 JAHRE REICHSPOGROMNACHT /ZAHLREICHE

			GEDENKVERANSTALTUNGEN
44.	14.11.2008	oretania.es	CARMEN QUINTANILLA ASISTIÓ EN BRUSELAS A LA CONMEMORACIÓN DEL 70 ANIVERSARIO DEL HOLOCAUSTO
45.	14.11.2008	European Jewish Press	BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES EUROPEAN JEWISH CONGRESS EVENT
46.	14.11.2008	The New Jersey Jewish Standard	KRISTALLNACHT REMEMBRANCES VISIT TODAY'S CONCERNS
47.	14.11.2008	Jewish Chronicle	KRISTALLNACHT REMEMBRANCES VISIT TODAY'S CONCERNS
48.	14.11.2008	Chicago Jewish News	KRISTALLNACHT REMEMBRANCES VISIT TODAY'S CONCERNS
49.	16.11.2008	The Jerusalem Post	EUROPE CONSIDERS UNIFYING ANTI-PREJUDICE LEGISLATION
50.	20.11.2008	The Moscow Times	OVER 100 KILLED IN RACIST ATTACKS

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF 'KRISTALLNACHT': BRUSSELS: TOLERANCE ON THE EUROPEAN AGENDA

On the 70th anniversary of the 'Kristallnacht' pogroms in Nazi Germany in 1938, a series of events will be held in Brussels on 9 and 10 November 2008. They will to be attended by several hundred political and Jewish leaders from across Europe, members of the European Parliament, diplomats, and other dignitaries, as well as survivors of the Holocaust. These events will be the first of their kind on a European level.

Sunday, 9 November 2008, 17:00 CET - Memorial service
Great Synagogue of Europe, Rue de la Regence 32, Brussels

Speakers:

- Chief Rabbi Albert Guigui, Brussels
- Chief Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, Tel Aviv
- Rabbi Arthur Schneier, New York
- Rabbi Marc Schneier, New York
- Dr. Moshe Kantor, President of the European Jewish Congress and the World Holocaust

Forum

World famous cantor Benjamin Muller of Antwerp will perform at the event.

Monday, 10 November 2008, 14:00 CET - Press Briefing

Hotel Silken Berlayment, Bd. Charlemagne, Brussels [PLEASE NOTE THE NEW LOCATION]

Participants:

- Mr. Aleksander Kwasniewski, former President of the Republic of Poland and Chairman of the ECTR
- Dr. Moshe Kantor, President of the European Jewish Congress and the World Holocaust

Forum

>> Lunch and refreshments will be served for journalists from 13:30 at the Silken Berlayment Hotel <<

Monday, 10 November 2008, 17:00 CET - Special Event Promoting Tolerance European Parliament, Rue Wiertz, Brussels

Hosts:

- Prof. Hans-Gert Pottering MEP, President of the European Parliament
- Dr. Moshe Kantor, President of the European Jewish Congress and the World Holocaust

Forum

Other speakers include:

- Mr. Jose Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission
- Mr. Aleksander Kwasniewski, Chairman, European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation (ECTR)

- Spanish Senator Lluís Maria de Puig, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

- Holocaust survivor Chief Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, Tel Aviv

- Holocaust survivor Dr. Samuel Pissar, writer, Paris

Monday, 10 November 2008, 19:00 CET - Diplomatic Dinner

Hotel Le Plaza, Bd. Adolphe Max 118-126, Brussels

Hosts:

- Mr. Aleksander Kwasniewski, Chairman, European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation (ECTR)
- Dr. Moshe Kantor, President of the European Jewish Congress and the World Holocaust

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Other speakers include:

- Mr. Yves Leterme, Prime Minister of Belgium

- Mr. Gunter Verheugen, Vice-President of the European Commission
About the European Jewish Congress (EJC):

Established in 1986 as the sole representative body of democratically elected European Jewish communities throughout Europe, the EJC works with national governments, European Union institutions and the Council of Europe. Based in Paris, the EJC federates and coordinates the 40 elected leaders of national Jewish communities in Europe, encompassing over two million Jews. Since June 2007, Dr. Moshe Kantor from Russia has served as president of the European Jewish Congress.

About the European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation (ECTR):

The ECTR, which recently met in Paris for its inaugural meeting, is comprised of eminent elder statesmen and renowned individuals who are recognised all over the world for their achievements in promoting tolerance. Among the tasks of the Council will be to prepare a range of initiatives to promote tolerance and mutual respect across Europe, including a new European framework convention. Current ECTR members are: Aleksander Kwasniewski (chairman), former President of Poland; Moshe Kantor, President of the European Jewish Congress and of the World Holocaust Forum (co-chairman); Jose Maria Aznar, former Prime Minister of Spain; Erhard Busek, former Vice-Chancellor of Austria and Special Coordinator for the Stability Pact for Southeast Europe; Vaclav Havel, former President of the Czech Republic; Milan Kucan, former President of Slovenia; Alfred Moisiu, former President of Albania; Goran Persson, former Prime Minister of Sweden; Rita Sussmuth, former Speaker of the German Bundestag; Vilma Trajkovska, President of the Boris Trajkovski International Foundation, Macedonia; and Vaira Vike-Freiberga, former President of Latvia.

About the World Holocaust Forum (WHF):

The World Holocaust Forum Foundation is an international organization dedicated to preserving the memory of the Holocaust and its important lessons for humanity. The Foundation has been charged with three major tasks: firstly, the organizing of regular international conferences on the Holocaust, and secondly, working in conjunction with the world leaders for the eradication of anti-Semitism. The third priority is train European teachers to effectively disseminate education on the Holocaust throughout Europe. This core of educators will in turn be able to instruct other teachers in each of the individual nations as well as prepare instruction materials in each of the European languages. The WHF was set up by its founder and president Dr. Moshe Kantor in 2005, following the first event in Krakow commemorating the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camp Auschwitz.

About Yad Vashem:

Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, is the Jewish people's memorial to the six million murdered Jews of Europe. It symbolizes the ongoing confrontation with the rupture engendered by the Holocaust. Containing the world's largest repository of information on the Holocaust, Yad Vashem is a leader in Shoah education, commemoration, research and documentation. It was established in 1953 by the Israeli Knesset and is entrusted with documenting the history of the Jewish people during the Holocaust. This entails preserving the memory and story of each of the six million victims and imparting the legacy of the Holocaust to future generations through its archives, library, school, museums and recognition of the Righteous Among the Nations.

POLITICAL AND GENERAL NEWS EVENTS FROM NOV 4

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt - Egypt to host a meeting of Middle East peace mediators. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice are expected to attend the meeting of the so-called Quartet. ** JOHANNESBURG - Africa's regional leaders will hold a summit aimed at breaking a deadlock in negotiations threatening Zimbabwe's power-sharing deal.

PHNOM PENH - Cambodia celebrates 55 years of independence from France with ceremonies and celebrations.

BRUSSELS - Events to mark 70th anniversary of the Kristallnacht pogroms in Nazi Germany (to Nov. 10). Link: <http://www.toleranceday.eu/events>

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10

BRUSSELS - EU general affairs, external relations and defence ministers meeting (to Nov. 11).

CARACAS - Russia and Venezuela to hold a joint naval exercise in the Caribbean Sea (to Nov. 14).

CAIRO - Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah faction and Islamist Hamas will meet to discuss an Egyptian proposal that calls for the immediate formation of a Palestinian unity government and an agreement on when to hold national elections.

BRUSSELS - Events to mark 70th anniversary of the Kristallnacht pogroms in Nazi Germany (Final Day). Link: <http://www.toleranceday.eu/events>

BERLIN - 7th Congress on European Security and Defence on "A Roadmap to a Security and Defence Union - Political Initiatives and Procurement" (to Nov. 11) speakers include European Commissioner for Justice, Freedom and Security Jacques Barrot, President of Northrop Grumman International John Brooks and Polish Minister of National Defence Bogdan Klich (0800).

GUANTANAMO BAY U.S. NAVAL BASE, Cuba - (MOVED FROM OCT. 08) Canadian Omar Khadr, 21, is expected go on trial before the Guantanamo prison camp's war crimes court on charges of murdering a U.S. soldier in Afghanistan. He was 15 when captured and is one of two Guantanamo detainees captured as juveniles and charged with crimes that carry a maximum penalty of life in prison.

WASHINGTON - John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts to present its Mark Twain Prize for American Humor to the late George Carlin, making him the first comedian so honored posthumously.

BALTIMORE, United States - The annual Fall General Assembly of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) (to Nov. 13).

LOS ANGELES - Nominees announced for the 35th annual People's Choice Awards, presented in TV, music and film.

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WAS EUROPAS JUDEN BEUNRUHIGT
70 Jahre nach der Reichspogromnacht sieht der Präsident des Europäischen Jüdischen Kongresses beklommen in die Zukunft und warnt vor den Machtgelüsten des Iran.

Der Iran schürt Hass: Ein Student tritt Israels Fahne mit Füßen, ehe er sie verbrennt. (ap)

Vor 70 Jahren brannten in Deutschland die Synagogen. Der deutsche Staat hatte dem jüdischen Teil seiner Bevölkerung nicht nur den Schutz entzogen, er machte sich selbst zum Anführer derjenigen, die den jüdischen Mitbürgern nach ihrer Ehre, nach ihrem Eigentum und sogar nach dem Leben trachteten.

Die sogenannte Reichskristallnacht markiert bis heute das Versagen der bürgerlichen Gesellschaft und ihrer Institutionen, und sie war der für alle sichtbare Auftakt zum größten Verbrechen der Menschheitsgeschichte, dem Holocaust.

Im kollektiven jüdischen Gedächtnis ist das Wissen um die Vorgeschichte des Holocaust tief eingepägt, und die jahrhundertlange Geschichte unserer Verfolgung hat uns Juden sehr sensibel gemacht für die ersten Anzeichen von gesellschaftlichen Fehlentwicklungen.

Wir sind schnell beunruhigt, weil wir die Erfahrung gemacht haben, dass Juden meist die Ersten sind, die darunter zu leiden haben. Zu den beunruhigenden Aspekten gehört insbesondere die schleichende Erosion von Toleranz und gegenseitigem Respekt zwischen gesellschaftlichen Gruppen, was oft als ein Vorbote von Sittenverfall und Barbarei zu konstatieren ist.

Auch in der heutigen Zeit sind viele Juden beunruhigt. Es beunruhigt uns, wenn in Deutschland die Zahl antisemitischer Straftaten steigt. Vor dem Hintergrund ihrer jüngeren Geschichte müssen sich die Deutschen die Frage gefallen lassen, warum es 63 Jahre nach dem Ende des Zweiten Weltkriegs noch, oder vielmehr: schon wieder, weit verbreitete Ressentiments und gar Gewalttaten gegen Juden gibt.

Und es beunruhigt, wenn wir in diesen Tagen erleben müssen, wie ein wichtiges Problem im Gezänk der Parteipolitik untergeht und die gemeinsame Basis für eine überparteiliche Erklärung zur wirkungsvollen Bekämpfung des Antisemitismus selbst ein Problem ist. Die Berufung eines Beauftragten des Bundestages gegen den Antisemitismus in Deutschland wäre ein wichtiges Zeichen zum 70. Jahrestag des 9. November 1938 gewesen, nicht nur als symbolischer Akt, sondern auch, um den verantwortlichen Politikern immer wieder verdeutlichen zu können, wo Handlungsbedarf besteht.

Uns Juden beunruhigen auch viele Zustände, Ereignisse und Entwicklungen in anderen europäischen Ländern, zum Beispiel das erschreckende Unwissen über den Holocaust. Diese Unwissenheit ist der Nährboden, auf dem Intoleranz und Aggression gedeihen. Vor allem in osteuropäischen Ländern darf chauvinistisches und rassistisches Gedankengut neuerdings wieder ungehindert von der Staatsmacht - und manchmal sogar unter ihrem Schutz, wie jüngst in Litauen - in Aufmärschen und Versammlungen öffentlich propagiert werden. In Budapest marschieren seit neuestem wieder paramilitärische Garden in Uniform auf, deren Symbole absichtlich denen des faschistischen Pfeilkreuzler-Regimes während des Zweiten Weltkriegs ähneln und denen Juden, Sinti und Roma, Ausländer und andere Minderheiten ein Dorn im Auge sind.

Und wir erleben diese Intoleranz und Aggression genauso bei einem aufkommenden neuen Antisemitismus islamischer Herkunft in Europa. Oft werden Gewalttaten gegen Juden in Europa als Einzelereignisse abgetan, die vorgeblich nationale Angelegenheiten sind. Das ist ein Trugschluss. Natürlich bedarf es in jedem Land besonderer Maßnahmen, denn jedes Land hat seine eigenen Traditionen und Gesetze. Aber Antisemitismus und Intoleranz machen längst nicht mehr vor nationalen Grenzen halt.

Insbesondere im Internet erleben wir die geballte Widerlichkeit der neuen und alten Antisemiten tagtäglich und weltweit. Online-Anbieter verdienen sich eine goldene Hand mit dem Verkauf von Hitler-T-Shirts und Nachdrucken von "Mein Kampf". Auf Internetseiten wird

permanent Hass gesät und zu Mord und Zerstörung aufgerufen. Antisemitismus und Intoleranz lässt sich deshalb nur mit vereinter Stärke, internationaler Zusammenarbeit und planmäßigem Vorgehen entgegentreten. Die Schaffung eines nationalen Beauftragten ist nicht nur für Deutschland ein wichtiges Instrument, auch die EU sollte sich überlegen, eine solche Position zu schaffen.

Vom Staat ignorierte oder stillschweigend geduldete Intoleranz ist schlimm genug. Noch schlimmer aber ist staatlich geförderte Intoleranz. Aufs Äußerste beunruhigt uns Juden, dass derzeit eine neue Welle des weltweiten Antisemitismus mit dem Iran wieder einen staatlichen Taktgeber, Förderer und auch Finanzier bekommen hat.

Es seien wieder die Juden, die für alles Unheil der Welt verantwortlich sind, hat der iranische Präsident sogar vor der Vollversammlung der Vereinten Nationen erklärt.

Heerscharen perspektivloser junger Muslime in vielen Ländern werden mit solchen Hassparolen mobilisiert. Die Vernichtung Israels ist zudem das mehrfach öffentlich erklärte Ziel des iranischen Präsidenten.

Welcher Jude denkt da nicht an den November 1938 und seine Folgen? Und gleichzeitig strebt der Iran auch noch den Besitz von Atomwaffen an. Unabhängig von der Frage, ob eine solche Waffe jemals eingesetzt werden würde, genügt alleine das Drohpotenzial, um Angst und Schrecken zu verbreiten. Ähnlich dem Hitler-Reich könnte der Atom-Staat Iran eine Krone der Unmenschlichkeit um sich verbreiten und den Antisemitismus in eine neue Dimension erheben.

Wjatscheslaw Moshe Kantor ist Präsident des Europäischen Jüdischen Kongresses (EJC) und gehört dem Europäischen Rat für Toleranz und Versöhnung an (ECTR). (ap)

Deshalb muss der Intoleranz und der Aggression des Regimes in Teheran Einhalt geboten werden. Wenn jahrelange diplomatische Bemühungen offensichtlich ständig unterlaufen werden und der einzige Zweck Zeitgewinn scheint, dann müssen härtere Sanktionen folgen.

Wer mit dem Iran, ohne mit der Wimper zu zucken, Handel treibt, verharmlost die Gefahr, die von diesem Staat ausgeht. Wer die Drohungen des iranischen Präsidenten gegen Israel als bloße Rhetorik abtut, der übersieht bewusst oder unbewusst die verheerende Wirkung dieser Aggression. Antisemitismus wird in großem Stil wieder zum Mittel staatlicher Interessenspolitik. Und wer die Finanzierung des Hisbollah-Terrorismus gegen Israel durch den Iran als nationales Problem des kleinen jüdischen Staates einordnet, der verkennt die Bösartigkeit dieser Strategie.

Erinnern wir uns: Was 1938 von den europäischen Regierungen als innerdeutsches Problem erachtet wurde, war schon Monate später ein weltweites.

Die zahlreichen Beschwichtiger und Abwiegler sollten daran denken: Wir Juden sind zwar meist die Ersten, die ins Fadenkreuz geraten. Aber fast nie die Einzigen.

Weil wir Juden auf eine leidvolle Geschichte zurückblicken, sind wir heutzutage ebenso beunruhigt, wenn andernorts auf der Welt Rassismus, Chauvinismus Ausländerfeindlichkeit und Intoleranz Raum greifen.

Deshalb habe ich gemeinsam mit dem früheren polnischen Präsidenten Aleksander Kwasniewski den Europäischen Rat für Toleranz und Verständigung (ECTR) ins Leben gerufen. Ich freue mich, dass aus Deutschland Rita Süßmuth diesem Gremium angehört. Wir wollen die Aufklärung fördern, denn sie ist die Basis für Verständnis und Respekt. Ich weiß, dass die Schaffung von Toleranz keine einfache Aufgabe ist. Es gibt kein Patentrezept und keine Pille, die man abends einnimmt, um am nächsten Morgen ein besserer Mensch zu sein.

Toleranz zu lernen ist ein mühevoller und langwieriger Prozess. Schnelle und publikumsträchtige Erfolge sind dabei nicht zu erzielen. Vielleicht ist das der Grund, weshalb die Diskrepanz zwischen den Sonntagsreden und der praktischen Politik für uns Juden immer wieder enttäuschend ist.

Nach dem Gedenken an die Opfer der Reichspogromnacht am kommenden Sonntag haben wir für den darauf folgenden Montag im Europaparlament in Brüssel eine besondere Veranstaltung organisiert, die den Weg nach vorne weisen soll und die sich der Förderung von Toleranz und Verständigung in ganz Europa widmet.

Es beruhigt uns zu sehen, dass sich so viele verantwortliche Politiker eindeutig zu diesem Ziel bekennen und sie gemeinsam mit uns an einer toleranteren Welt arbeiten wollen.

Vielleicht werden dann eines Tages die Geschehnisse des 9. November 1938 als ein lange überwundenes Phänomen in die Geschichte eingehen. Bis dahin gibt es noch viel zu tun.

Der Autor

Wjatscheslaw Moshe Kantor ist Präsident des Europäischen Jüdischen Kongresses (EJC) und gehört dem Europäischen Rat für Toleranz und Versöhnung an (ECTR). Der russische Unternehmer ist außerdem Präsident des Russischen Jüdischen Kongresses und Gründer des World Holocaust Forum.

Der Europäische Jüdische Kongress wurde 1986 vom Europäischen Zweig des Jüdischen Weltkongresses gegründet. Er hat seinen Hauptsitz in Paris und ist eine Dachorganisation verschiedener nationaler jüdischer Organisationen Europas. Der ECTR wurde Anfang Oktober in Paris gegründet. Das Gremium hat sich zum Ziel gesetzt, die Toleranz und Verständigung europaweit zu fördern.

Reichspogromnacht

9. November 1938: In der Nacht vom 9. zum 10. November 1938 brannten jüdische Synagogen in ganz Deutschland. Angehörige von Sturmabteilung (SA) und Schutzstaffel (SS) zertrümmerten die Schaufenster jüdischer Geschäfte und misshandelten Juden. Während und unmittelbar infolge der Ausschreitungen starben weit mehr als 1300 Menschen, mit mindestens 1400 wurden über die Hälfte aller Synagogen oder Gebetshäuser in Deutschland und Österreich stark beschädigt oder ganz zerstört.

Weisung zu dem Pogrom war von München ausgegangen, wo sich die Führung der NSDAP zum Gedenken an den 15. Jahrestag des Hitler-Putsches versammelt hatte. Am 10. November wurden mehr als 30.000 männliche Juden in Konzentrationslager (KZ) verschleppt.

WHAT WORRIES EUROPE'S JEWS

Seventy years after the "Reichspogromnacht", the president of the European Jewish Congress gives a somber outlook and warns of the Iranian quest for power

Seventy years ago, the synagogues burnt in Germany. The German State had not only withdrawn its protection from the Jewish part of its population, it had appointed itself as the leader of all those who were out to take away honour, property and even the lives of Jews. Until this day, "Kristallnacht" symbolizes the failure of civil society and its institutions, and it was the beginning of the biggest crime in the history of mankind, the Holocaust.

In collective Jewish memory, the knowledge about how the Holocaust came about is deeply embedded, and centuries of our persecution have made our people very sensitive to signs of undesirable developments in society.

We quickly become worried because experience shows that Jews are often the first who suffer from discrimination. The slow erosion of tolerance and mutual respect between groups in society is worrying, and this often heralds a descent into exclusion and barbarism.

Today, many Jews are once again worried. It worries us that anti-Semitic crimes are on the rise in Germany. With recent German history, the question must be asked why 63 years after the end of World War II, there is still – or rather: there is yet again – widespread resentment and even violent acts against Jews.

It worries us that these days we have to witness how this important problem is being dealt with by politicians who conduct a petty partisan debate and for whom it is even a challenge to pass an all-party resolution on how to effectively combat anti-Semitism. The appointment of a special representative of the Bundestag for tackling this problem would have been an important sign on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of 9 November 1938, not only as a symbol but also to make it clear time and again to political leaders where there is a need to act.

We Jews are also worried about many situations, events and developments in other European countries, for instance the shocking lack of knowledge about the Holocaust. This ignorance makes for fertile ground on which intolerance and aggression can prosper. Particularly in some eastern European countries nationalistic and racist theories can now once again be propagated publicly and without hindrance by State authorities (sometimes even under their protection, such as recently in Lithuania) in marches and rallies. In Budapest, paramilitary guards are patrolling the streets in uniforms bearing symbols that are deliberately resemble those of the fascist Arrow Cross regime during World War II and to whom Jews, Sinti and Rome people, foreigners and other minorities are a thorn in their side.

In Europe, we also witness this new intolerance and aggression with the new anti-Semitism in Islamist origin. Often, violent acts against Jews are deemed isolated incidents with which each country should better on its own. That is a fallacy. Of course every country needs to act on its own, and each country has its own customs and laws. However, anti-Semitism and intolerance are now cross-border phenomenon.

Especially on the internet, we can see the massive and ugly work of old and new anti-Semites, around the world. Some online retailers make a killing by selling Hitler T-shirts and reprints of Mein Kampf. Websites dedicated to promoting hatred and calling for murder and destruction are numerous. Anti-Semitism and intolerance therefore can only be contained by pooling forces, working together internationally, and pursuing a coordinated strategy. The creation of a national representative for tackling this problem would be an important instrument not only for Germany. The EU should also think about creating such a position.

Intolerance ignored or tacitly tolerated by the State is bad enough. Even worse is state-sponsored intolerance. We Jews are extremely concerned that with Iran anti-Semites around the world-wide have got a new impulse generator and financial supporter.

It was again the Jews who were responsible for the current problems in the world, the Iranian president recently said before the General Assembly of the United Nations. In many countries, scores of young Muslims with no good prospects in life are being mobilized by such rallying cries. Moreover, it is the repeatedly stated aim of the Iranian president to wipe Israel off the map.

Witnessing all this, which Jew does not get a feeling of déjà-vu? Who does not feel reminded of November 1938 and all that followed it?

Iran is also pursuing its quest for nuclear weapons. Independent of the question of whether or not such bombs would ever be deployed, the ability to threaten others would already create fear and despair in the region. Similar to Hitler's Germany a nuclear Iran could be the epicenter of a sphere of barbarity and elevate the level of anti-Semitism to a new dimension.

Therefore, we need to stop the intolerance and aggression of the regime in Tehran. If years of diplomatic efforts have been blatantly undermined and if the only purpose of Iran is to win time, we must impose tougher sanctions.

Whoever is doing business with Iran without any qualms is downplaying the danger which this state poses. Whoever discards the threats constantly uttered by Iran's president as mere rhetoric ignores the devastating impact they have. Spreading anti-Semitism is again becoming a means to pursue the national interests of a country. Whoever thinks that the financial support given by Iran to the Hezbollah terrorists in their fight against Israel is just an issue for the tiny Jewish state to deal with chooses to ignore that this is an evil strategy.

Remember: What in 1938 was considered an internal German problem months later became one affecting the whole world.

Those who always want to placate and appease should take note: We Jews are often the first who become victims. However, we are almost always not the only ones.

Because the history of the Jewish people is one of persecution we are today also worried when racism, chauvinism, xenophobia and intolerance spread. This is why, together with former Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski, I have set up the European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation. I am happy that Rita Süsmuth represents Germany on this body. We want to improve education because it is the basis for understanding and mutual respect in society. I know that creating tolerance is not an easy task. There is no panacea, and it is not possible to take a pill and wake up "tolerant" the next day.

Learning tolerance can be a long and painful process. Quick and spectacular results are not to be expected. This is perhaps the reason why Jews are often so disappointed about the discrepancy between the speeches given on Sunday and the political actions undertaken on Monday.

After commemorating the "Kristallnacht" victims next Sunday, we will host a special event on Monday at the European Parliament in Brussels, which should pave the way ahead and which is dedicated to the promotion of tolerance and reconciliation.

It is reassuring to see that so many political leaders unequivocally support this objective and that they want to work together on a more tolerant world. Perhaps one day the events of 9 November 1938 will be looked at as a phenomenon that Europe managed to overcome. However, until then, a lot remains to be done.

The author

Viatcheslav Moshe Kantor is president of the European Jewish Congress (EJC), and a member of the European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation (ECTR). The Russian businessman is also president of the Russian Jewish Congress and founder of the World Holocaust Forum.

The European Jewish Congress was founded by the European branch of the World Jewish Congress in 1986. It has its headquarters in Paris and is an umbrella organisation of Jewish community organisations in Europe. The ECTR was founded at the beginning of October in Paris. The body has made it its objective to foster reconciliation and tolerance throughout Europe.

KRISTALLNACHT'IN 70. YILI ANILIYOR

9 Kasım 1938 gecesı Nazilerce, Yahudi ev, işyerleri ve sinagoglarına yönelik kanlı ve ölümcül saldırıların başladığı Kristallnacht (Kristal gece) 70. yılında tüm dünyada anılıyor

Hitler'in sağ kolu Goebbels'in Yahudilere yönelik olası saldırılara müdahale edilmeyeceğini basın yoluyla duyurması üzerine Nazi sivil ajanları tarafından kışkırtılan halk 1938 yılının 9 Kasım'ı 10 Kasım'a bağlayan gecesı Yahudilerin can ve mallarına yönelik saldırıları başlattı. Saldırıdan sonra sokakları kaplayan cam kırıklarının ışıltılarından dolayı Yahudi soykırımının başlangıcı sayılan o gece tarihe Kristallnacht olarak geçti. Gecenin sonunda 91 Yahudi öldürülmüş, yüzlercesi ağır yaralanmış, Yahudilere ait 7.500 dolayında işyeri yağmalanmış, 177 sinagog yakılıp yıkılmış, pek çok mezarlık tahrip edilmişti.

Avrupa Yahudi Kongresi Başkanı Moshe Kantor, Kristallnacht'ın 70. yılı vesilesi ile Brüksel'de tüm Avrupa ülkelerinin siyasi temsilcilerinin katılımı ile bir etkinlik düzenlerken, ülkemizde Kristallnacht Ortaköy Etz Ahayim Sinagogu'nda anılacak.

CAPITAL OF EUROPE MARKS 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF 'KRISTALLNACHT' AND PROMOTES TOLERANCE

A series of events will be held Sunday and Monday in Brussels, seat of the main European Union institutions, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the anti-Jewish pogroms in Germany and Austria that culminated in the Holocaust, and to promote tolerance across the continent.

They will be attended by several hundred of political and Jewish leaders from across Europe, members of the European Parliament, diplomats, as well as Holocaust survivors and eyewitnesses of 'Kristallnacht'.

On the night of 9 to 10 November 1938, a coordinated series of pogroms were perpetrated by the Nazis in the Germany and Austria against Jews, their synagogues, their businesses and their homes.

The anti-Jewish riots came to be known as 'Kristallnacht' or Night of Broken Glass, a reference to the great numbers of broken windows of synagogues, Jewish-owned stores, community centres and homes plundered and destroyed during the pogroms. Tens of thousands Jews were attacked, killed or deported to the concentration camps.

That night marked the beginning of the atrocities that were to progressively intensify and become the full horror of the Holocaust.

On Sunday, the European Jewish Congress, a pan-European Jewish representative body, will organize a memorial service at the Brussels Great Synagogue.

The service, to be attended by Meir Lau, Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv, Rabbi Arthur Schneier from the Park East Synagogue in New York, and Moshe Kantor, president of the European Jewish Congress, will be co-organized by the Conference of European Rabbis, the World Holocaust Forum (WHF), Yad Vashem, and the Jewish Community of Belgium.

Moshe Kantor, president of the European Jewish Congress and of the World Holocaust Forum: "The lessons of 'Kristallnacht' must be learned again and again. Forgetting what happened in 1938 means allowing discrimination and persecution spread again."

On Monday, the EJC will host a special event promoting tolerance in the European Parliament in Brussels.

The event will be held under the auspices of the president of the EU assembly, Hans-Gert Poettering. Speakers will include European Commission President José-Manuel Barroso, former Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski, who chairs the recently launched European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation (ECTR), Lluís Maria de Puig, Spanish President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the 47-nation Council of Europe, and Rabbi Meir Lau, a Holocaust survivor.

Explaining the motivation for these commemorations in the city which hosts the European Commission, the European Council of Ministers and the European Parliament, EJC President Moshe Kantor said: "Intolerance is unfortunately a recurring phenomenon. With these events, we want to emphasize that the lessons of 'Kristallnacht' must be learned again and again, and that forgetting what happened in 1938 means allowing discrimination and persecution spread again."

"Europe's political leaders need to heed the lesson of 1938 and be at the forefront of fighting for human rights and dignity," he added.

"On this anniversary it is important to take time to reflect on the events of 70 years ago but also to look forward to work towards eliminating the causes of xenophobia, racism and anti-Semitism, and to promote tolerance and respect amongst all the peoples of the European continent."

On Monday evening, EU Commission Vice-President and Commissioner in charge of enlargement, Guenter Verheugen, will address a diplomatic dinner.

LA RUSSIE ET L'UE DOIVENT COMBATTRE LA XENOPHOBIE

La Russie et l'UE doivent unir leurs efforts pour éradiquer la xénophobie sous toute forme, a déclaré Viatcheslav Kantor, président du Congrès juif européen, dans une interview accordée dimanche à ITAR-TASS. Il participe aux manifestations actuellement en cours à Bruxelles dans le cadre de la commémoration du 70-e anniversaire des pogroms contre les Juifs en Allemagne nazie connus sous le nom de Nuit de cristal. Ces cérémonies se déroulent avec la participation de parlementaires européens, personnalité politiques éminentes, lauréats du prix Nobel.

«Nous nous apprêtons à rédiger sous peu la Convention de tolérance en Europe », a annoncé M. Kantor. « Ce texte sera soumis à l'examen du Parlement européen et du Conseil de l'Europe », a-t-il dit. « Nous cherchons à élaborer des mesures concrètes en vue de mettre en place un système universel de lutte contre la xénophobie tant en Russie que dans l' Union européenne. Nous nous attendons à ce que ce système s'étende sur des sphères comme l'enseignement, la politique et les mass media ».

«La Convention de tolérance en Europe prévoit de créer plusieurs sites Internet consacrés à la promotion de l'idée de tolérance et d' instituer des prix spéciaux qui seront attribués aux spécialistes de cette problématique, a poursuivi Viatcheslav Kantor. Le thème de la tolérance acquiert aujourd'hui de plus en plus d'importance face aux tentatives de certaines forces en Ukraine et, surtout, dans les républiques baltes pour rendre héroïque le fascisme et pour réviser les résultats de la Seconde guerre mondiale », a-t-il indiqué.

«Les membres du Congrès juif européen expriment leur inquiétude de ces tentatives, a poursuivi son président, avant de noter que les « personnalités politiques cherchant à reconforter leur position politique par l'intermédiaire des tentatives pour disculper le nazisme, deviennent ses complices ».

Une cérémonie de commémoration de la mémoire des victimes de la Nuit de cristal s'est tenue dimanche dans la Grande synagogue de Bruxelles. On prévoit que le roi Juan Carlos 1-er d'Espagne se verra décerner lundi 10 novembre un prix de tolérance en Europe « Pour la contribution de poids à la promotion de l'esprit de tolérance ».

La nuit de Cristal a été la première action de violence massive contre les Juifs du Troisième Reich. Elle s'est déroulée dans la nuit du 9 au 10 novembre 1938. Présentés par les responsables nazis comme une réaction spontanée de la population suite à l'assassinat d'un conseiller de l'ambassade allemande à Paris par un jeune Juif, Herschel Grynszpan, les pogroms ont été « mis en œuvre par le ministre de la Propagande du Reich, Joseph Goebbels, ordonné par le chancelier du Reich, Adolf Hitler, perpétré par des bandes composées de SA, de SS, de membres de la Jeunesse hitlérienne et d'autres organisations du parti national-socialiste, surveillé et soutenu par le SD, la Gestapo et d'autres structures de forces ». Sur tout le territoire du Reich, plus de 250 synagogues furent détruites, 7 500 commerces et entreprises exploités par des Juifs saccagés; 91 Juifs furent assassinés, des centaines d'autres se suicidèrent ou moururent suite à leurs blessures et près de 30 000 furent déportés en camp de concentration. Point culminant de la vague antisémite qui submergea l'Allemagne dès l'arrivée des nazis au pouvoir en janvier 1933, la « nuit de cristal » est l'une des prémices de la Shoah.

MUSLIM STATES TO REMEMBER KRISTALLNACHT

Dramatic Muslim representation is expected at Monday's "Special Event Promoting Tolerance Throughout the European Continent" at the European Parliament in Brussels.

Representatives of Libya, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Pakistan, Morocco, Turkey and Malaysia, among others, are to attend an event publicized as part of the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of Kristallnacht.

The event is organized jointly by the European Jewish Congress and the presidency of the European Parliament. It is the first event of this scope in Europe to include such significant Muslim participation.

The Muslim world representatives almost certainly had "clearance from home," said World Jewish Congress vice president Maram Stern, "so this is a great success."

The anniversary of Kristallnacht is an appropriate occasion for discussing tolerance, EJC president Moshe Kantor said Sunday, because it commemorates another kind of tolerance, the world's tolerance for evil.

This tolerance is today extended to Iran's nuclear ambitions, he said.

"Today, a leader of a very problematic country goes to the United Nations General Assembly and pronounces a criminal formula - the destruction of Israel, the death of Jews," explained Kantor.

"Yet nobody walked out of that room. We are in the same situation" as at the time of Kristallnacht, when the world rebuffed Jewish refugees and ignored the dangers, he said.

While fighting intolerance, the world cannot be "criminally tolerant to what's going on in Iran," said Kantor.

Asked if European states share his view on the link between the Iranian nuclear program and the lessons of Kristallnacht, Kantor said he would "concentrate their attention myself" at the event, "even though humanitarian values often seem to be undervalued when they are pit against economic values."

He noted that 5,000 European companies openly do business with Iran, "with some helping in the creation of nuclear warheads through [the sale of] dual-use technologies."

At Monday's event, a "convention of tolerance" will be presented to the European Parliament by former Polish president Alexander Kwasniewski, who chairs the European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation.

The council will also present a first draft of a "white paper on tolerance" for Europe, which would chronicle European states' achievements in developing "technologies of tolerance."

According to Kantor, it will be a record of successful policies and programs in fighting intolerance throughout Europe.

KANTOR: 70 YEARS AFTER KRISTALLNACHT LIFE OF THE JEWS STILL THREATENED BY INTOLERANCE

70 years after 'Kristallnacht,' the anti-Jewish pogroms organized by the Nazis as a prelude to the Holocaust, the life of the Jews is still threatened by intolerance and hatred, Moshe Kantor, President of the European Jewish Congress (EJC) said.

Speaking on Sunday in Brussels at a memorial service organized by the EJC at the city's Great Synagogue to mark the anniversary, Kantor stressed that the leader of Iran, a country which is trying to have the nuclear weapon with the help of European companies, is threatening to wipe Israel off the map and is making anti-Semitic statements before the United Nations general assembly."

"Nobody left the UN hall, nobody protested Iranian President Mahmoud Ahamdinejad's comments," Kantor deplored.

The service at the synagogue was attended by the chief rabbi of Tel Aviv, Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, and Rabbi Arthur Schneier of the Park East Synagogue in New York, both Holocaust survivors, as well as diplomats and several hundreds members of the Belgian Jewish community.

"By burning synagogues, the Nazis understood that they were touching the heart of the Jewish life," Rabbi Lau said in his address, calling on the Jews "to learn from the past."

Chazan (Cantor) Benjamin Muller recited the mourners' prayers El Molei Rachamim and Kaddish.

The ceremony is part of events held in Brussels, seat of the main European Union institutions, to commemorate 'Kristallnacht' (or Night of Broken Glass) but also to promote tolerance and reconciliation across the continent.

On Monday, the European Jewish Congress hosts a special event promoting tolerance in the European Parliament.

The event will be held under the auspices of the president of the EU assembly, Hans-Gert Poettering. Speakers will include European Commission President José-Manuel Barroso, former Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski, who chairs the recently launched European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation (ECTR), Lluís Maria de Puig, Spanish President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the 47-nation Council of Europe.

"We are initiating a very strong programme to unite Europe, Jews and non-Jews, around tolerance and reconciliation in order to fight radicalism, extremism and anti-Semitism," Moshe Kantor said.

MERKEL: WE MUST NOT REMAIN SILENT

"We must not be silent about condemning anti-Semitism," German Chancellor Angela Merkel declared yesterday as Germany and Israel commemorated the 70th anniversary of Kristallnacht with concerts, prayers and ceremonies.

The killings and destruction are seen by many as a key step leading to the Nazis' systematic murder of 6 million Jews in the Holocaust. Merkel recalled the Nov. 9, 1938 riots in which more than 91 German Jews were killed and more than 1,000 synagogues damaged. She told Germans that the lessons of the nation's past were crucial in confronting a current increase in xenophobia and racism.

"Anti-Semitism and racism are a threat to our basic values - those of democracy and respect for diversity and human rights," Merkel said in Berlin at a ceremony in Germany's newly renovated largest synagogue.

At his weekly cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said Kristallnacht - the Night of Broken Glass - was "the turning point toward the inevitable destruction of a greater portion of the Jewish people in Europe between 1939 and 1945." He added that Israel would never forgive or forget the crimes of the Nazi regime.

President Shimon Peres issued a statement calling the Holocaust the "worst disaster" to befall the Jewish people.

Some 30,000 Jewish men and boys were arrested and sent to concentration camps during the pogrom that left the streets of Germany littered with shards of glass from the smashed windows of Jewish homes and shops.

Germany's southern neighbor Austria - where Kristallnacht claimed 30 Jewish lives - also commemorated the day, while German-born Pope Benedict XVI called for prayers for Kristallnacht's victims in profound solidarity with the Jewish world.

The pope is currently being lobbied by Holocaust survivors and their descendants to halt the process of making his wartime predecessor Pius XII a saint. Some Jews accuse Pius, who reigned from 1939 to 1958, of turning a blind eye to the Holocaust. The Vatican says he worked behind the scenes to help save many Jews from certain death.

Pope Benedict, born Joseph Ratzinger in Bavaria in 1927, was forced to join the Hitler Youth as a teenager, though both his parents opposed the Nazis. Earlier this year the pontiff spoke in New York about his teenage years being "marred by a sinister regime."

At Yad Vashem, Israel's official Holocaust memorial, survivors, their descendants, academics and the German and Austrian ambassadors to Israel took part in a ceremony that included a rare musical rendition of a work by German-Jewish composer Robert Kahn, whose music was outlawed by the Nazis.

Yad Vashem also presented a new online exhibit, "It Came From Within ... 70 Years Since Kristallnacht," marking the event with images, historical information and pages of testimony about some of the Jews who died during the pogrom.

Charlotte Knobloch, head of Germany's Central Council of Jews, told the gathering in Berlin's Rykestrasse Synagogue that Germans must fight against far-right extremism in all its forms.

"One must be sensitive to the quiet and less-quiet signals of anti-democratic developments in our country," said Knobloch, who lived through Kristallnacht as a girl in Munich.

The synagogue, a red brick temple built in 1904, survived Kristallnacht because of its location, nestled in an inner courtyard of a densely populated neighborhood. It reopened last year after two years of painstaking renovation.

At a memorial concert held later yesterday in Brussels, speakers drew a comparison between the Nazi Germany of the 1930s and today's Islamic Republic of Iran.

"It can happen again," said Brussels Chief Rabbi Albert Guigui. "The Nazi mentality still exists, and we must not ignore reality."

Rabbi Arthur Schneier of Park East Synagogue in New York added: "The Jewish people must not remain quiet in the face of a coming disaster. I thought the world would wake up after 70 years, but that's not what happened. Even today, the head of a UN member state insists on erasing Israel from the map, and nobody is doing anything."

The event in Brussels was organized by the European Jewish Congress. Congress President Moshe Kantor said its goal was to advance cooperation between Jewish organizations and those in the European Union to combat xenophobia and anti-Semitism.

"Seventy years after Kristallnacht, the threat against the Jewish people has not faded. Six thousand European companies participate today with the Iranian regime, despite the promises of Europe's governments. This cooperation is on the scale of \$100 billion," he said.

"European states, those which were allies of Hitler and those who fought him, are the ones today supplying Iran with technology to develop a nuclear weapon."

Rabbis and representatives from Jewish communities across Europe participated in the event, as well as Tel Aviv Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau. Lau was named chairman yesterday of the council of Yad Vashem.

The European Parliament will hold a special session today to launch the European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation, to be comprised of former prime ministers and presidents. The council aims to create a legislative and educational framework for encouraging tolerance across the continent.

ESTADOS MUSULMANES RECUERDAN LA KRISTALLNACHT

Una representación musulmana participará del "Evento especial para la promoción de la tolerancia en todo el continente europeo" en el Parlamento Europeo en Bruselas.

Los representantes de Libia, Qatar, los Emiratos Arabes Unidos, Arabia Saudita, Egipto, Pakistán, Marruecos, Turquía y Malasia, entre otros, asistirán al evento como parte de la conmemoración del setenta aniversario de la "La noche de los cristales rotos"(Kristallnacht).

El evento es organizado conjuntamente por el Congreso Judío Europeo y la Presidencia del Parlamento Europeo y es el primer evento de esta envergadura en Europa que incluirá importante participación musulmana.

Para el vicepresidente del Congreso Judío Mundial, Maram Stern "este es un gran éxito".

El aniversario de la Kristallnacht es una ocasión apropiada para debatir la tolerancia, expresó el presidente de EJC, Moshe Kantor, porque se conmemora otro tipo de tolerancia.

"Hoy en día, un dirigente de un país muy problemático va a la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas y pronuncia una fórmula criminal, la destrucción de Israel, la muerte de los judíos", explicó Kantor.

"Sin embargo, nadie abandonó ese lugar. Estamos en la misma situación", como en el momento de la Kristallnacht, cuando el mundo rechazó refugiados judíos e hizo caso omiso de los peligros, recalzó.

Sobre si los Estados europeos comparten su punto de vista sobre el vínculo entre el programa nuclear iraní y las lecciones de la Kristallnacht, Kantor dijo que "a pesar de los valores humanitarios a menudo estos parecen ser infravalorados cuando están en contra de valores económicos".

Señaló que cinco mil empresas europeas abiertamente negocian con Irán ", con algunas ayudando a la producción de ojivas nucleares a través de la venta de las tecnologías de doble uso".

En el evento, una "convención de la tolerancia" se presentará al Parlamento Europeo por el ex presidente polaco, Alexander Kwasniewski, quien preside el Consejo Europeo sobre la Tolerancia y la Reconciliación.

El Consejo también presentará un primer borrador de un "Libro Blanco sobre la tolerancia" para Europa, que es una crónica de los Estados europeos sobre los logros en el desarrollo de "tecnologías de la tolerancia".

Según Kantor, será un registro del éxito de las políticas y programas en la lucha contra la intolerancia en toda Europa.

יהודים מאשר נאצים-ניאו יותר יש באירופה

ynet-ל בראיון. האירופי היהודי הקונגרס ארגן אותם - הבדולח לליל שנה 70 לציון אירועים התקיימו בבלגיה כמה כי אמר גם הוא. מהעבר הלקחים ילמדו לא אם - להתרחש עלולה שנייה שואה כי, קנטור משה הקונגרס נשיא מזהיר בשטחן גדול זיכרון אירוע לקיים נוחות אי חשות ממשלות בריסל, אופיר-רופא שרון

הנאצים מספר כי, קנטור משה, האירופי היהודי הקונגרס נשיא אומר הבדולח לליל שנה 70 מציינים שבו ביום אומר ynet-ל בראיון. מיליון 2.5-כ הוא שמספרם - שם החיים היהודים ממספר גבוה היבשת ברחבי נאצים-והניאו "להיבחר כדי המיעוט את ולא הרוב את לרצות שלהם והרצון פוליטיקאים של פרגמטיות" היא לכך הסיבה כי נטורק. מהעבר הלקחים את נלמד לא אם להתרחש העלולה, שנייה משואה הזהיר הוא בנוסף

כנסת בית חלונות נופצו: בהונגריה היום

הבדולח ליל לציון 70-ה השנה יום בבריסל גדולה הכנסת בבית ('א יום) אמש נפתחו אירועים של בשורה לסובלנות חוקי בסיס ליצירת הפינה אבן את יניחו שם - האירופי בפרלמנט השנה יום את יציינו הבוקר

האירועים נערכים ביוזמת הקונגרס היהודי האירופי. בישיבה ייטלו חלק גם נציגים ממדינות ערביות ומוסלמיות מצרים פקיסטן, מרוקו, איחוד האמירויות וטורקיה. סעודיה, קטאר, לוב, -

קנטור: "אנחנו מתחילים שבוע מעניין של סובלנות באירופה, אך לפני שנדבר על העתיד אנו מחויבים לדבר ולזכור את העבר. בימים אלו אנו משלימים חמש שנים של זיכרונות לטרגדיות משמעותיות בהיסטוריה היהודית. 06 שנה ונחבל רלטיה לש תונוסינה דחא היהש עוריא, חלודבה לילל הנש 70-יץ, 56 שנה לטבח בבאבי יאר, ולשחרור אושוו את הסובלנות של אירופה כלפי היהודים. כשהוא גילה בוודאות שאף אחד לא מתעניין ביהודים, הוא הוציא את תוכניתו מחיר". שילמו גם הם את ה-אל הפועל. אלה ששתקו ולא אמרו כלום כדי למנוע

הזכיר קנטור את האיום האיראני: "בהחלט כן. אם -לשאלה, האם 07 שנה אחרי, יכול להתרחש אירוע דומה נג'אד יושב-נהיה תלמידים גרועים ולא נפיק את הלקחים 07 שנה אחרי ליל הבדולח, כי כיום האיום מגיע מאיראן. אחמדי יגת היהודים שהם אויבי האנושות, ואיש לא קם ועוזב את בכינוס של האו"ם ומצהיר על מחיקת ישראל מהמפה, הר החדר. שוב רואים את פשעי המלחמה מושתקים במקום בו אסור לשתוק. מצד אחד המדינות באירופה מצהירות שהן משתפות פעולה -מתנגדות לדרכו של נשיא איראן, אך מהצד השני ארצות הברית, גרמניה ומדינות אירופאיות נוספות ן בערכים של מאות מיליוני דולרים, גם הפעם הכדאיות הכלכלית גוברת על הכול". עם איראן "ןחשש עוריא סייקל תוחנו יא תושח תולשממ"

רק לפני יומיים התפטר בבלגיה חבר פרלמנט מטעם מפלגת הימין הקיצונית "החזית הלאומית", לאחר שתחנת על כך אומר -עליב על נערה יהודיה במחנה הריכוז הנאצי דכאו טלוויזיה מקומית שידרה סרטון בו הוא נראה שר שיר מ קנטור: "זה נורא שבלב אירופה, במקום בו שרדו באורח פלא יהודים, 07 שנה אחרי הטרגדיה, פוליטיקאים שרים שירים ולה כאלה. אנשים החושבים שהאנטישמיות אינה קיימת הם עיוורים. גם בארצות הברית ישנה אנטישמיות חברתית גד ובוודאי גם באירופה".

ליל הבדולח התרחש בגרמניה. מדוע האירוע אינו מתקיים שם? -

בגרמניה, באוסטריה - תומוקם השולש שחרתה חלודבה ליל. מייפיצפס מישנאל סחייתהל הצור אל ינא" נקיים את -לטובה ובצ'כוסלובקיה. קיבלנו מסרים שכמה ממשלות חשות אי נוחות לקיים אירוע גדול ואמרנו שגם זה האירוע במרכז אירופה ונערוך אירוע מרכזי יותר לא רק בגרמניה, אלא ברמה של הבאת נושא הסובלנות לחקיקה בפרלמנט האירופי".

מה החזון שלך לעוד עשור מהיום, כאשר יציינו 08 שנה לליל הבדולח? -

דת,חואמה הפוריא תא לולכיש רתויב קזח ירטמואיג פוג רוציל ונילע"

ארצות הברית ורוסיה. מחר בישיבה המיוחדת שתתקיים בפרלמנט האירופי, נתחיל בבניית בסיס לתהליך חקיקה -בנושא סובלנות שאנו מקווים ומאמינים שלעולם לא יסתיים, סובלנות אינה גלולת פלא, היא כמו החומה הסיני מתחילים היום ומסיימים בעוד 0002 שנה.

סובלנות רוצה אירופה: הבדולח לילל שנה 70

בצל החשש מהתגברות האנטישמיות ושנאת הזרים בעקבות המשבר הכלכלי, קיים הפרלמנט האירופי ישיבה מיוחדת בהשתתפות נציגים מישראל וממדינות ערב לעידוד הסובלנות אופיר, בריסל-שרון רופא רב (יום ב') ישיבה מיוחדת לקידום הסובלנות באירופה, במלאת ממשיכים להזיכר: הפרלמנט האירופי קיים הע יגיזנו, סיפוריא סיגיזנ, ואל ריאמ לארשי ברה, ירטה "משו די" ר"וי רתיה ייב ופתתשה סנכב. חלודבה לילל הנש 70 מדינות ערב בהן מצרים וסעודיה.

חלודבה לילל הנש 70

החוקר שחי את הזוועה: "לא ידעו על הכל" אסור להיות אדישים כלפי אנטישמיות מרקל: חוקר ישראלי: נמצא רכוש שנשדד בלילל הבדולח רוסאש ונדמל. רתוי בוט דיתע סייקל ונתוא בייחמ רבעה. יצרא תודלותב לפא קרפ לע ינמרגכ סויה רבדמ ינא" לנו לעצום את העיניים", אמר נשיא הפרלמנט, פרופסור האנס גרט פוטרנינג.

ם ללמוד את הערך סובלנות ואסור לנו לקחת זאת כמובן מאליו. בשנים האחרונות אנו עדים ינש תואמ ונל חקל" שוב לאנטישמיות, שנאת זרים ויש סיבה לדאגה".

שגריר מצרים לאיחוד האירופי, ד"ר מחמוד כרים, אמר כי "השואה היתה דבר נורא שכולנו מחוייבים לפעול ו לא מכחיש את השואה, אנחנו נמצאים כבר הרבה מעבר לזה. היחיד יחד כדי למנוע את הישנותו. אף אחד מאיתנ נג'אד, והוא לא ערבי". -שמכחיש זה נשיא איראן, מחמוד אחמדי במסיבת עיתונאים שהתקיימה לפני הישיבה הציגו נשיא הקונגרס היהודי האירופי, משה קנטור, ונשיא המועצה שגותש, הנמאה. הפוריאב תונעזגה תעינמו תונלבוסה סודיקל הנמא, האירופית לסובלנות ופיוס, אלכסנדר קוושנייבסקי בקרוב לחתימת חברי הפרלמנט האירופי, תיצור בסיס לחקיקה כלל אירופית נגד אנטישמיות ושנאת זרים. בנוסף, תחל המועצה לפרסם מדי שנה "ספר לבן" שיכלול את רשימת ההישגים של מדינות אירופה בכל הקשור לסובלנות. כשמדברים על סובלנות, הבחירות באמריקה מעודדות מאוד", אמר קוושנייבסקי. "רק כמה ימים אנשים" אמריקני והנה זה קרה וזה שיעור טוב בסובלנות. למה אמריקה צריכה לקבל - באירופה לא האמינו שיצביעו לנשיא אפרו אמריקני ואירופה צריכה לקבל גזענות ואנטישמיות?". -נשיא אפרו ת העיתונאים הביע קוושנייבסקי דאגה מהשפעת המשבר הכלכלי על חוסר הסובלנות ברחבי העולם במסיב ובאירופה בפרט. "ההיסטוריה מלמדת אותנו שמשברים כלכליים מובילים לחוסר סובלנות. פאשיזם, קומוניזם ים. לפעמים השריפה ואנטישמיות נולדו ממשברים. למרות שהעולם היום שונה בהרבה מן העבר עלינו להיות זהיר מתחילה מניצוץ אחד ואנחנו אומרים 'לעולם לא עוד'".

הפרלמנט האירופי קיים כינוס במלאות 07 שנה לליל הבדולח

פוטרינג, אמר בנאומו כי "העבר מחייב אותנו לדאוג לעתיד טוב-נשיא הפרלמנט האירופי, הפרופסור האנס גרט אסור לנו לעצום את העיניים. נדרשו מאות שנים ללמוד מהי סובלנות, ואסור לנו לקבל את זה כמובן יותר. למדנו ש מאליו".

LE PRÉSIDENT DU CONGRÈS JUIF EUROPÉEN EST INQUIET

A l'occasion du 70e anniversaire de la Nuit de Cristal, le président du Congrès juif européen, Moshé Kantor, a fait part de ses préoccupations, rappelant qu'il fallait craindre une seconde Shoah "si l'on ne tire pas les leçons du passé". Il a rappelé que les néo-nazis étaient plus nombreux en Europe que les Juifs eux-mêmes et que les politiciens, n'écoulant que leur pragmatisme, cherchaient avant tout à satisfaire la majorité de leur électoral.

KRYSTAŁOWE OLEWKI

Odchylam się z krzesłem do tyłu... W Europie jest teraz więcej nazioli niż Żydów, których jest 2,5 miliona - tak twierdzi Wiaczesław (Mosze) Kantor, przewodniczący Europejskiego Kongresu Żydów (EJC). Liczby wydają się mocno przesadzone, chyba że Kantor uwzględni w swoich subtelnych obliczeniach także Żydów i nazioli w ostępach Rosji.

To byłoby dosyć interesujące (...). Liczba nazioli w putinowskiej Rosji okryta była dotychczas mgłą niepewności. Jeśli natomiast chodzi o liczbę synów Izraela, to - wg szacunków izraelskich - nie przekracza ona raczej 800 tysięcy. Wiadomo powszechnie, że w latach 90., po rozpadzie ZSRR - wyemigrowało stamtąd ponad milion Żydów, głównie do Izraela.

Wychylony z krzesłem... skupiam uwagę na naziolach z UE, którzy nie są bynajmniej gatunkiem wyginionym. Wg mnie "oczkiem w czerepie" pozostają dla nich synowie Izraela, a nie - jak mogłoby się wydawać - tzw. kolorowi emigranci. Nie przypadkiem też antyżydowskie, ugniecione patologie europejskie ujawniają się ostatnio właśnie... w Brukseli.

W miniony czwartek RTBF wyemitowała kasetę, na której belgijski naziol M. Delacroix, intonuje przyśpiewkę - na motywach "L'eau vive" - opiewającą Holokaust i Dachau. Nie chodzi o zafajdańca, lecz o fakt, że trzy dni później przypadła okrągła 70 rocznica Nocy Kryształowej. Dla hitlerowskich szkopów był to sprawdzian, że Europa olewa Żydów.

RF, EU SHOULD POOL EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE XENOPHOBIA - VIEW

Russia and the EU should pool efforts to eliminate all forms of xenophobia, the president of the European Jewish Congress, Viacheslav Kantor, told Itar-Tass on Sunday.

He took part in the events to remember the Jews killed by Nazi on the Crystal Night on November 9-10. Then ninety-one Jews were killed and an estimated 3,500 were sent to concentration camps.

"In the near future we will draft a European convention on tolerance. It will be submitted to the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe for consideration," Kantor said.

"We seek to draft concrete measures to create a comprehensive system for counteracting xenophobia both in Russia and the EU," he said. "We plan it will cover such areas as education, politics and mass communications."

A European convention on tolerance envisions the creation of special websites promoting the ideas of tolerance as well as grants for training specialists in this area, he said.

Kantor believes that the theme of tolerance acquires a new meaning today, when in Ukraine and the Baltic states "we see more often and often attempts to glorify Nazism and rewrite World War II results"

"The European Jewish Congress expressed deep concern over these facts. Those political leaders who try to earn money by means of whitewashing Nazism turn to their accomplices," he said.

On Monday, King Juan Carlos I of Spain will be handed over an award of tolerance in Europe for special contribution to promoting the spirit of tolerance.

EL PRESIDENTE DEL CONGRESO JUDÍO EUROPEO ADVIRTIÓ SOBRE LA POSIBILIDAD DE UN SEGUNDO HOLOCAUSTO

Las declaraciones se hicieron, en Bélgica, en el marco de la conmemoración de los 70 años de la "Noche de los Cristales Rotos". El presidente del organismo, Moshé Kantor advirtió: "Puede haber una segunda Shoá si no se aprende la lección del pasado".

El día en que se recordaron 70 años de la Noche de los Cristales Rotos, el presidente del Congreso Judío Europeo, Moshé Kantor, dijo que: " el número de neo nazis en la tierra es más grande que el de judíos".

Kantor arrojó las cifras de neo nazis que, se estima, hay en el mundo y dijo que el número asciende a 2,5 millones.

Molesto por haber recibido mensajes de gobiernos que "se sentían incómodos" de tener que realizar los actos conmemorativos en sus países, Kantor explicó: "comenzamos una semana de tolerancia en Europa, pero antes de hablar del futuro, estamos obligados a hablar y recordar el pasado".

"No me quiero referir a personas específicas pero la Noche de los Cristales ocurrió en tres países: Alemania, Austria y Checoslovaquia. Decidimos hacer un evento en el centro de Europa y no en Alemania, a fin de traer el tema de la tolerancia y su legislación al parlamento europeo.

Respecto del diputado belga de la derecha que fue captado por la televisión cantando una canción ofensiva sobre una joven judía en el campo de concentración de Dachau, dijo Kantor: "Es terrible que en el corazón de Europa, un lugar donde sobrevivieron de milagro miles de judíos, 70 años después de la tragedia, haya políticos que sigan cantando consignas como esa".

La idea del Congreso Judío Europeo es llevar la temática de la tolerancia al parlamento para promulgar las leyes que sean necesarias. En su discurso, Kantor se permitió visualizar el estado de situación en los próximos 10 años, cuando se recuerden los 80 años de la Kristallnacht, y aseguró: "Debemos crear un cuerpo geométrico fuerte que comprenda a Europa Unida, Estados Unidos y Rusia. Hoy habrá en el parlamento europeo una sesión especial, donde empezaremos a crear una base de legislación de la tolerancia. Creemos que nunca terminará, porque la tolerancia, es como la muralla china se empieza hoy y se culmina dentro de 200 años.

KRISTALLNACHT REMEMBRANCES VISIT TODAY'S CONCERNS

They still hear sounds of breaking glass, still smell the fire, still feel a parent's hand protectively close over their own. And they still feel fear.

Those who remember the events of Kristallnacht 70 years ago may be ever fewer, but their memories are vivid. At memorial events over the weekend in Brussels and Berlin, the witnesses brought home the details.

Hundreds of ceremonies, large and small, around the world marked the anniversary of what was a turning point leading to the Nazi genocide of European Jewry. In Berlin and Brussels, speakers also focused on current concerns, including rising anti-Semitism and Iran's threatening posture toward Israel.

It is not enough to merely worry, said Moshe Kantor, the head of the European Jewish Congress who was in Brussels to introduce a project to promote tolerance in Europe.

Speaking at Berlin's Rykestrasse Synagogue on Sunday morning, Charlotte Knobloch, the president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, remembered picking her way through shards of glass on the sidewalks of Munich with her father 70 years ago. Knobloch, now 76, urged that Germany's most active far-right political party today be banned.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel told the gathering that tolerance must not be neutral and passive. She said that Iran and Hezbollah calling for the destruction of Israel must not be tolerated.

In Brussels, standing on the bimah of the 130-year-old Great Synagogue of Europe, Rabbi Arthur Schneier, 78, said he could still recall the sound of "the SS and SA destroying everything in sight" in his home city of Vienna on Nov. 9, 1938.

"I saw and felt glass all over the street, and as I approached my synagogue ... I saw that it was set afire-and the fire brigade was standing by, not doing anything," said Schneier, the spiritual leader of the Park East Synagogue in New York.

"They called it spontaneous, but it was not spontaneous," said Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, former chief rabbi of Israel.

Born in Poland, Lau survived concentration camps but lost most of his family in the Holocaust.

The Nazis thought "that if they touched us at this point, the center of our lives, if they burned our Torahs, we would have no chance," said Lau, who has been named the new chairman of the Yad Vashem Council.

Few people heeded the warning signs in 1938, but the new warnings – especially threats by Iran – must not be ignored, said Kantor, the Russian-born head of the European Jewish Congress, addressing some 500 guests at the ceremony in Brussels.

Those who fail to respond today are playing into the hands of the Hitlers of tomorrow, said Kantor, whose "week of tolerance" this week includes meetings at the European Parliament followed by a rabbinical gathering in Prague. The goal is to unite American, European and Russian leaders in forging new approaches to fighting xenophobia and anti-Semitism, he said.

In the works are a "White Book" describing exemplary programs that promote tolerance and a "convention of tolerance" to serve as a model for legislation across Europe.

Both projects represent an unprecedented collaboration between the European Parliament and a Jewish nongovernmental organization, the EJC's secretary-general, Arie Zuckerman, told JTA.

Among those who spoke at the gathering on tolerance Monday were French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner, representing the French presidency of the European Union; Aleksander Kwasniewski, the former president of Poland and chairman of the new European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation; Hans-Gert Pötering, the president of the European Parliament; Spanish Senator Luis Maria de Puig, the president of the Parliamentary Assembly of

the Council of Europe; and two Holocaust survivors, Lau and author Samuel Pizar of the United States.

At the Brussels remembrance, Kantor called Kristallnacht Adolf Hitler's "first test" to see whether people would stand up for the Jews. Afterward, Hitler was "completely sure that the German people would not protect the Jews, their neighbors and friends of yesterday."

Kantor, who also heads the World Holocaust Forum, said U.N. members today fail to protest when Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad makes anti-Semitic statements at the General Assembly. He also noted that even though Iran is developing nuclear weapons, thousands of European companies continue to do \$100 billion in business with the Islamic Republic.

LA UE RECUERDA LA 'NOCHE DE LOS CRISTALES ROTOS' Y LLAMA A LA TOLERANCIA

La Unión Europea conmemoró hoy el 70 aniversario de la 'Noche de los Cristales Rotos', que marcó el inicio del Holocausto, e hizo un llamamiento a impulsar la tolerancia hacia todas las etnias y religiones en el continente.

En un acto celebrado en la sede del Parlamento Europeo en Bruselas, las instituciones comunitarias recordaron la trágica jornada de 1938 en la Alemania nazi y subrayaron la necesidad de combatir el antisemitismo en todas sus expresiones.

En la conferencia, celebrada en el marco del Año Europeo del Diálogo Intercultural, intervinieron, entre otros, el presidente de la Eurocámara, Hans-Gert Pottering, el presidente del Congreso Judío Europeo y del Foro mundial del Holocausto, Moshe Kantor, y varios supervivientes de los campos de concentración nazis.

En la 'Noche de los Cristales Rotos', el 9 de noviembre de 1938, ardieron más de mil sinagogas de Alemania y Austria, más de 7.500 comercios judíos fueron devastados y más de un millar de personas perdieron la vida.

'Sólo han pasado 70 años', recordó Pottering, que llamó a 'escuchar a los testigos y a aprender de la Historia'.

'En la UE tenemos la responsabilidad de oponernos a todas las formas de extremismo, racismo y xenofobia y defender la democracia y el respeto de los derechos humanos', recordó.

KWAŚNIEWSKI: ANTYSEMITYZM SIĘ NIE SKOŃCZYŁ

Obchody 70. rocznicy hitlerowskiego pogromu Żydów w "noc kryształową" z 9 na 10 listopada 1938 roku przebiegły w Brukseli pod znakiem apeli o tolerancję i przestróg przed rasizmem i antysemityzmem.

- Nietolerancja jest niestety zjawiskiem powracającym. Lekcje z Kristallnacht musimy wyciągać wciąż na nowo. Zapomnienie tego, co się stało w 1938 roku, byłoby zezwoleniem na ponowne szerzenie dyskryminacji i prześladowań - powiedział przewodniczący Europejskiego Kongresu Żydów oraz Światowego Forum Holokaustu Mosze Kantor.

W niedzielę specjalna uroczystość odbyła się w głównej synagodze Brukseli, która nosi tytuł Wielkiej Synagogi Europy. W poniedziałek obchody miały miejsce w Parlamencie Europejskim z udziałem przewodniczącego Hansa-Gerta Poetteringa i przewodniczącego Komisji Europejskiej Jose Barroso. Francuskie przewodnictwo reprezentował minister spraw zagranicznych Bernard Kouchner. Nacisk położono na promowanie tolerancji w ramach Europejskiego Roku Dialogu Międzykulturowego.

W brukselskich obchodach wziął także udział były prezydent Aleksander Kwaśniewski, który przewodniczył powołanej przed miesiącem - z inicjatywy Europejskiego Kongresu Żydów - Europejskiej Radzie Tolerancji i Pojednania. Jej zadaniem jest promowanie tolerancji, walka z dyskryminacją, rasizmem, antysemityzmem i ksenofobią.

- Antysemityzm się nie skończył(...) Na szczęście jest marginalny, ale nie zwalnia nas z obowiązku czujności. (...) Lekcja z Kristallnacht jest tylko jedna: więcej tolerancji, więcej zrozumienia, więcej wiedzy, to wszyscy razem będziemy bezpieczniejsi - powiedział Kwaśniewski polskim dziennikarzom w Brukseli.

Zwrócił uwagę na kontekst obchodów 70. rocznicy "nocy kryształowej" - kilka dni po zwycięstwie w wyborach prezydenckich w USA czarnoskórego Baracka Obamy. - Nie ma bardziej widzialnego przykładu, jak można pokonać uprzedzenia rasowe i stereotypy - powiedział były prezydent.

SCHLECHTER ALS VOR 60 JAHREN

Der Präsident des Europäischen Jüdischen Kongresses warnt eindringlich vor einem Wiederaufleben des Antisemitismus in Europa. Seiner Ansicht nach fühlen sich Europas Juden heute stärker diskriminiert als vor 60 Jahren.

"Wir fühlen uns heute viel schlechter als nach dem Zweiten Weltkrieg", sagte Moshe Kantor am Montag in Brüssel auf einer Gedenkveranstaltung zum 70. Jahrestag der Reichspogromnacht. "Was Politiker und Regierungen heute in Europa erlauben, hätten wir uns vor zehn oder 20 Jahren nicht vorstellen können." Es gebe in Europa mehr Neonazis und Nazi-Unterstützer als Juden, und die Erinnerung an den Holocaust verblasse zunehmend. "Die Welt ist wieder in Gefahr", warnte er.

Vor allem die weltweite Finanzkrise schaffe einen Nährboden für Antisemitismus und Intoleranz. Kantor sagte, die sogenannte Reichskristallnacht im November 1938 habe sich parallel zur Wirtschaftskrise in den USA ereignet. "Heute stehen wir wieder vor einer Wirtschaftskrise, deshalb sind wir in Gefahr", sagte Kantor. "Wir sollten extrem vorsichtig sein bei all den Herausforderungen, vor die wir heute gestellt sind."

Der Europäische Jüdische Kongress mit Sitz in Paris ist nach eigenen Angaben die Dachorganisation von 40 gewählten Vorsitzenden der nationalen jüdischen Gemeinschaften in Europa. Der neu gegründete Europäische Rat für Toleranz und Versöhnung (ECTR) will deshalb eine Liste der europäischen Länder und Organisationen aufstellen, die sich besonders für Toleranz einsetzen. "Wir wollen damit niemanden bestrafen, sondern andere Länder ermutigen, diesem Weg zu folgen", sagte der Vorsitzende des ETCR und ehemalige polnische Staatspräsident, Aleksander Kwasniewski. Mitglieder des ETCR sind prominente Persönlichkeiten wie die frühere Bundestagspräsidentin Rita Süsmuth und der ehemalige tschechische Präsident Vaclav Havel.

In der Pogromnacht vom 9. auf den 10. November 1938 hatten Nazis Geschäfte und jüdische Gotteshäuser in Brand gesetzt, Wohnungen demoliert und Bewohner misshandelt. Die Pogromnacht mit mehr als 1300 Toten war Auftakt der völligen Entrechtung der Juden in Deutschland. Allein am 10. November wurden mehr als 30.000 jüdische Jungen und Männer in Konzentrationslager verschleppt. Am Abend wollen EU-Spitzenpolitiker in Brüssel des Verbrechens gedenken und zu mehr Toleranz aufrufen.

EUROPEAN JEWS: OUR SITUATION WORSE THAN 60 YEARS AGO

European Jews on Monday marked the 70th anniversary of Nazi Germany's Kristallnacht pogrom while warning that their situation in Europe is worse than it was 60 years ago. "Today we feel worse than after the Second World War," Moshe Kantor, president of the European Jewish Congress (EJC), said at the ceremonies in Brussels marking the Kristallnacht.

"What politicians and governments nowadays in Europe permit themselves is something which we could not have imagined 10 or 20 years ago," Kantor said.

There were now more neo-Nazis and Nazi sympathisers in Europe than there were Jews, he said. Increasingly, remembrance of the Holocaust is fading away.

"The world is once again in danger," Kantor warned. Above all, the worldwide financial crisis was again creating fertile ground for anti-semitism and intolerance.

The EJC, based in Paris, is the umbrella organization of 40 elected leaders of the Jewish groups of individual European countries.

The EJC remembrance ceremonies came a day after Germany marked the 70th anniversary of the Kristallnacht - the night of shattered glass - of November 9, 1938, when mobs attacked and torched synagogues and Jewish shops and homes throughout Nazi Germany, killing more than 1,300 people.

REMEMBERING KRISTALLNACHT IN BRUSSELS

Jewish and European leaders at a Kristallnacht commemoration in Brussels called for new efforts to combat anti-Semitism and intolerance.

At the gathering marking the 70th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the leaders stressed the need to heed the threats of Iran and others who promote intolerance.

Moshe Kantor, the Russian-born head of the European Jewish Congress, told the 500 guests assembled that few people heeded the warning signs in 1938, but the new warnings—especially threats by Iran—must not be ignored.

Those who fail to respond today are playing into the hands of the Hitlers of tomorrow, said Kantor, who is sponsoring a "week of tolerance" this week. Events include meetings at the European Parliament followed by a rabbinical gathering in Prague.

Kantor said the goal is to unite American, European and Russian leaders in forging new approaches to fighting xenophobia and anti-Semitism.

NEW EFFORT LAUNCHED TO FIGHT ANTI-SEMITISM

Every few months in Austria, vandals topple tombstones in a Jewish cemetery and spray swastikas on the headstones.

But it's not just happening here, officials warned Monday, as Europe's top human rights body joined forces with a global Holocaust education task force to fight what they denounced as a "scourge of anti-Semitism" across the Continent.

"Anti-Semitism is still not an issue of the past ... the Holocaust is something that can happen again and again and again," warned Ferdinand Trauttmansdorf, chairman of the Task Force for International Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research.

The international task force, led this year by Austria, teamed up with the Council of Europe in a bid to more closely coordinate education and public awareness efforts to combat acts of hatred against Jews.

Among the measures in the works: a joint media campaign dubbed, "All Different — All Equal," to promote and celebrate diversity.

"There are no races. We are one human race," Yehuda Bauer, professor of Holocaust studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Officials announced the joint effort to mark the 70th anniversary of Kristallnacht, or The Night of Broken Glass. On Nov. 9-10, 1938, rioters in Germany and Austria smashed the windows of synagogues and Jewish-owned businesses in a prelude to a Nazi crackdown that eventually led to the systematic slaughter of 6 million Jews.

"Seventy years after these pogroms, in 2008, we still face anti-Semitic hate crimes," said Janez Lenarcic, head of the human rights arm of the Organization for Security and Coordination in Europe.

"Clearly, important historic lessons have still not been learned by all," he said.

Cases in point: recurring attacks on Jewish cemeteries and synagogues across the 27-nation European Union.

This past weekend, several windows of a synagogue in eastern Hungary were smashed with rocks, the Rabbinical Center of Europe said Monday. And last month, up to 200 Jewish graves were vandalized in Bucharest, Romania.

Such desecrations have become almost routine in Austria. So far this year, there have been reports of Jewish graves defaced or destroyed in the western city of Linz, in the southern city of Graz and in Vienna, where at least two dozen graves were vandalized in January.

Even today, 6 percent of Austrians surveyed by the polling firm GfK Austria said they believe there's no historical proof that the Holocaust actually occurred. That's down from 15 percent in 1979, but it's still cause for concern, officials said. GfK Austria did not release details on the survey's methodology or margin of error.

"We do not have to repeat these atrocities — we can learn from history," said Morten Kjaerum, who heads the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights.

Tracking anti-Semitic incidents has proven difficult, the agency says, because of patchy reporting in different countries.

Overall, incidents appear to have peaked in 2004, though they are still occurring in every EU member state, according to the agency's most recent survey published in December 2006.

Some Jewish groups, however, contend that anti-Semitism is even more deeply ingrained: The European Jewish Congress says incidents flared again in 2006.

Officials say that underscores the importance of education — and not just by governments and schools, but at homes around the dinner table.

Terry Davis, secretary-general of the Council of Europe, told reporters he's taken his own children to cemeteries to explain the atrocities that Jews suffered at the hands of the Nazis and still endure today. "We need to change people's attitudes," he said.

ONE LESSON OF KRISTALLNACHT: THE DANGER OF INTOLERANCE IN HARD TIMES

PACE President Lluís Maria de Puig has warned of the “danger” that tolerance in society is most severely tested when times are hard economically.

Addressing an event at the European Parliament in Brussels to mark the 70th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the night in 1938 when Jewish-owned buildings were smashed and burned across Nazi Germany, Mr de Puig pointed out that the Depression of the 1930s had been a contributory factor.

Europe still faces challenges of intolerance, he said, from discrimination against Roma or immigrants, to ethnic cleansing in the 1990s, to the desecration of graves by neo-Nazi groups. “Old demons have often been replaced by new.”

The President pointed out that the European Convention on Human Rights was a modern-day legal bulwark against the atrocities of Kristallnacht and what followed it, but that fighting intolerance was also a matter of shaping mind-sets through education and culture. The main message of tolerance could be summed up in the Council of Europe slogan: “All different, all equal”.

PACE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS ON THE OCCASION OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF KRISTALLNACHT (BRUSSELS, 10 NOVEMBER 2008)

Address by Lluís Maria de Puig, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, at the Special Event “Promoting Tolerance throughout the European Continent” (70th anniversary of the ‘Kristallnacht’), European Parliament, Brussels, 10 November 2008

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me tell you how happy I am to be able, in my capacity as President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, to address you on this occasion.

We have come together today to remember the past, and on the strength of that past, to build our future. The occasion, as we know, is the 70th anniversary of “The Kristallnacht”, “The night of broken glass” of November 10, 1938. If we are determined that such an event - and all that which followed in its wake and in particular the Holocaust - if we are determined that it must never happen again, then we must see what lessons we can draw from it and apply them to our present time, and the times to come.

Our hosts, the European Parliament and the European Jewish Congress wanted, I believe, to underline this very aspect by dedicating this special event to the promotion of tolerance throughout the European continent.

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe which I represent is well-placed when talking about spreading values and ideals across Europe. Our organisation unites 47 European countries and has its headquarters in Strasbourg, a city-symbol of reconciliation between two war enemies, France and Germany.

The Council of Europe has for almost 60 years – we were founded in 1949 – worked with all its different components – its Committee of Ministers for Foreign Affairs, its Congress of Local and Regional authorities, its European Court of Human Rights and many other bodies set up within it – for the purpose of promoting democracy, human rights and the rule of law across Europe. In other words, “promoting tolerance throughout the European continent” is precisely what we have been doing all these years. And may I add how closely the Council of Europe and its Parliamentary Assembly work with the European Union in carrying out this mission - very much including its European Parliament and President Pöötter himself.

We may have thought, after the end of the Cold War, that confrontation and tension between and within nations was a thing of the past. We now realise that “old demons” have often been replaced by new.

I could mention the many achievements of the Council of Europe – conventions, resolutions, recommendations, campaigns, but only at the risk of you looking up to the ceiling and wishing I will soon come to a close. So let me instead mention just four words that I find genial, the words from a slogan used by the Council of Europe in its 1995 European Youth campaign to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

The slogan was simply “All different, all equal”. “All different, all equal”. I think that those four words embody so much of what we want to say in fighting intolerance. If we recognise that we are all different, that differences are a richness to us all, but that we are indeed all in the end equal, then I believe we will be able to overcome many of the problems of intolerance that beset our continent.

And surely we have enough challenges to face: enmity between certain ethnic groups. Discrimination, such as against our Roma population or against immigrants. Ethnic cleansing, where the early 1990s saw examples on a scale never thought possible. And now we have neo-fascist and even neo-Nazi, groups appearing with their calls for national or ‘ethnic’ purity.

If we look to the present time, we also face a world financial crisis, which carries the risk of widening into an economic crisis for our continent. Just as we must find a way to overcome this crisis by working closely and innovatively together, so we must also be aware that it is precisely in difficult economic times that tolerance will be put most severely to the test. We only have to look to the consequences of the Great Depression of the 1930s to understand the danger.

However, my message is that all these challenges should not serve to discourage us, but rather inspire us to fight harder on behalf of tolerance and understanding.

And here I see a source of inspiration, coming not from Europe’s shores but rather from those of the United States. Quite regardless of any political consideration, I believe that the overwhelming choice by the American people of their first non-white President, Senator Barack Obama, is an extremely hopeful and inspiring message also for the Old World.

The United States, which has had its fair share of racial intolerance, has shown that it knows how to pay attention to a candidate’s personal capabilities, and to disregard his colour of skin. So this choice, coming as it does sixty years after the “Night of the broken glass” and the introduction of Nazi legislation, forbidding, by the way, any German from marrying a black person – this choice is the best refusal possible of the Nazi doctrine, and an encouragement for Europe to overcome its own past and present intolerance.

In 1936, when Jesse Owens, the US athlete, ran to win the 100 metre Olympic gold medal, Hitler rose from his seat in the Berlin stadium so as to avoid having to shake his hand. By contrast, when Barack Obama visited Berlin this past summer, 200,000 cheering Berliners came to hear him.

‘All different, all equal’. Excellencies, friends, we still have a long way to go, but we have also come a fair distance.

I thank you for your attention.

PACE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS AT THE DINNER ON THE OCCASION OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF KRISTALLNACHT (BRUSSELS, 10 NOVEMBER 2008)

Address by Mr Lluís Maria de Puig, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, at the dinner to mark the Special Event “Promoting Tolerance throughout the European Continent” (70th anniversary of ‘Kristallnacht’), European Parliament, Brussels, 10 November 2008

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have listened with great emotion to the speeches we heard this afternoon. As I did, two words kept returning in my mind. They were: 'Never again!'

For a moment I felt myself transported to the streets of Berlin on that fateful night, "The Kristallnacht", or the "Reichspogromnacht", as the 9th of November 1938 is officially known. In the light of burning synagogues, schools and shops I could see the horror in the faces of those innocent men, women and children as they were killed on the spot, or taken from their homes and given a few minutes to pack their belongings before being dispatched to unknown destinations from which few would return. I saw a whole people, with a civilisation going back thousands of years, being uprooted, wilfully destroyed.

The Kristallnacht was part of a plan. A plan by Hitler and his supporters, who were now, since 1933, in complete command of state power. They had absolute authority to decide over the life and death of the Jewish population of Europe, but also of the Roma, homosexuals and political opponents of all persuasions other than their own. Absolute power also over peace and war. What country to attack and subjugate, what country to spare for now until a better moment for attack had come.

There was a direct link between Hitler's grasp for power in 1933 and "The Kristallnacht", and between that night and the infamous Wannsee Conference in 1942, when an overall, detailed plan was drawn up by the Nazi hierarchy - occupied country by occupied country - for the realisation of 'the final solution', the Holocaust. The building of concentration camps, filling them with millions of victims who were soon to be systematically killed.

During all this time the world did not react. Most people in the outside world did not know, some perhaps did not want to know. And it might perhaps be argued in the world's defence that it was simply too busy fighting the Nazi onslaught to try very hard to find out what was happening in Germany and the occupied territories.

Finally, after the years of horror, the liberation of the concentration camps in 1945, with names such as Dachau, Buchenwald and Treblinka as part of a very long list, now etched in our collective memory.

At long last came the end of the war in 1945, and with it the determination of all people of good will in the world to try to create it anew, to never let what happened be repeated.

One of the first international organisations where, after the creation of the United Nations in 1945, this will became manifest was the Council of Europe. Created in 1949 by ten founding states, one of its very first acts was to draw up the Council of Europe Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. The Convention was opened for signature in 1950 and entered into force in 1953.

The Convention reads almost like poetry, perhaps because it was drawn up so soon after the nightmare of the war had been real, when memories of it were still fresh and there was absolute community of purpose about what needed to be done.

With the Convention there was now an international, juridically enforceable bulwark against atrocities such as the Kristallnacht and what was to follow: the right to life; the prohibition of torture; the banning of slavery and forced labour; the right to liberty and security; the right to a fair trial; the right to respect for one's private and family life; freedom of thought, conscience and religion; freedom of expression; freedom of assembly and association; and the banning of discrimination. And many other rights and freedoms, some of them added in what has in the meantime become 13 Protocols to the Convention.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, one reason why I am mentioning the Convention at such length is that I have the great privilege of representing the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe tonight – the body that took the initiative to draw up this Convention close on 60 years ago, not to mention a whole range of other legal instruments - too many to mention here - which it has initiated ever since. The Assembly has been – together with the Council's Committee of Ministers, the European Commissioner for Human Rights, our European Commission against Racism and Intolerance and European Committee for the Prevention of Torture, and many other of the Council's bodies - fighting ardently to defend European democracy, rule of law and human rights.

We are aware, however, that tolerance is not only a matter of legal jurisdiction. The order of whether a hand should or should not grasp a gun comes first and above all from the mind. This is why we in the Council of Europe have been investing so heavily in education and culture, especially in history teaching and the promotion of intercultural dialogue. Council of Europe campaigns such as “All different, all equal” or the new campaign entitled “Speak out against discrimination” are emblematic of our belief that changing the minds means also changing the hearts. I am also glad to say that most of the countries signatories of the European Cultural Convention have now chosen a date, in relation with their national history, to celebrate in schools a Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust and for the Prevention of Crimes against Humanity.

A whole series of events are taking place around these days to celebrate the International day against fascism and Anti-Semitism and the International Day of Tolerance. The European Ministers of Education met in Nuremberg and in Dachau last week to discuss “Teaching remembrance for a Europe of freedom and the rule of law.” A new partnership was forged today between the Council of Europe and the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research. The “Lisbon Forum” on 10-11 November will address the “universality of human rights and its implementation at international and regional levels.” And a Council of Europe conference this week will be looking into “Human Rights in culturally diverse societies”.

Today the Council of Europe has 47 member states stretching from Iceland in the west to Russia in the east, Norway in the north to Malta in the south. But here we are talking about much more than just geography. We are talking about the most ambitious political project since the Holocaust, the project of learning to live all together.

We have gone a long way, but not far enough. I am turning again to the horrible images I mentioned in the beginning : of burnt houses and of broken human destinies. Where have we seen this again? We do not need to go as far as Rwanda or Iraq. We can stay on European soil with Srebrenica, Chechnya, or most recently, with events in Georgia.

But we do not even need to go that far. We can stay in our town or perhaps even our street and see desecrated cemeteries, immigrants’ hostels set on fire, neo-Nazi marches in the streets, racist and xenophobic appeals by politicians in the media and in parliament... We can feel the kind of ordinary, every-day racism and intolerance everywhere in our ordinary, every-day lives and, despite all our efforts, it often feels like an ordinary thing of everyday life that is not even worth bothering about.

This, to me, is the biggest danger. The worst atrocities happen when nobody pays attention. And they can happen again because at their origin there is a tactic, old as the world, which continues to guide not simply ideologies but sometimes even state policies. This is the tactics of putting all the blame for our own problems on “the others”, and making them pay for it. This tactic will persist for so long as we do not realise that we are also “the others” and “the others” are also we.

Europe has gone through many challenges since its foundation. We have jointly overcome many threats against the values that we defend, but we can be sure that they will try to reappear. It would be vain to imagine that you can ever totally defeat the forces of evil and darkness. You can only keep them at bay, just as darkness is kept at bay by light, but returns as soon as the light goes out.

That is why we must, each one of us, always be bearers of light, always make it our mission to struggle against the forces of evil as they prepare their comeback. We must never cease in our struggle for democracy, human rights and the rule of law – the only means by which atrocities such as those I have described can be prevented.

And to be able to do this we must always remember the Kristallnacht and its message for all time: “Never again!”

I thank you for your attention.

**JEWISH AND EUROPEAN LEADERS AT A KRISTALLNACHT COMMEMORATION
IN BRUSSELS CALLED FOR NEW EFFORTS TO COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM AND
INTOLERANCE**

At the gathering marking the 70th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the leaders stressed the need to heed the threats of Iran and others who promote intolerance.

Moshe Kantor, the Russian-born head of the European Jewish Congress, told the 500 guests assembled that few people heeded the warning signs in 1938, but the new warnings—especially threats by Iran—must not be ignored.

Those who fail to respond today are playing into the hands of the Hitlers of tomorrow, said Kantor, who is sponsoring a "week of tolerance" this week. Events include meetings at the European Parliament followed by a rabbinical gathering in Prague.

Kantor said the goal is to unite American, European and Russian leaders in forging new approaches to fighting xenophobia and anti-Semitism.

**AT A MEMORIAL CONCERT HELD LATER YESTERDAY IN BRUSSELS, SPEAKERS
DREW A COMPARISON BETWEEN THE NAZI GERMANY OF THE 1930S AND
TODAY'S ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

"It can happen again," said Brussels Chief Rabbi Albert Guigui. "The Nazi mentality still exists, and we must not ignore reality."

Rabbi Arthur Schneier of Park East Synagogue in New York added: "The Jewish people must not remain quiet in the face of a coming disaster. I thought the world would wake up after 70 years, but that's not what happened. Even today, the head of a UN member state insists on erasing Israel from the map, and nobody is doing anything."

The event in Brussels was organized by the European Jewish Congress. Congress President Moshe Kantor said its goal was to advance cooperation between Jewish organizations and those in the European Union to combat xenophobia and anti-Semitism.

"Seventy years after Kristallnacht, the threat against the Jewish people has not faded. Six thousand European companies participate today with the Iranian regime, despite the promises of Europe's governments. This cooperation is on the scale of \$100 billion," he said.

"European states, those which were allies of Hitler and those who fought him, are the ones today supplying Iran with technology to develop a nuclear weapon."

Rabbis and representatives from Jewish communities across Europe participated in the event, as well as Tel Aviv Chief Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau. Lau was named chairman yesterday of the council of Yad Vashem.

The European Parliament will hold a special session today to launch the European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation, to be comprised of former prime ministers and presidents. The council aims to create a legislative and educational framework for encouraging tolerance across the continent.

KRISTALLNACHT REMEMBERED AT BRUSSELS

Amidst fears of fresh wave of xenophobia in wake of global economic crisis, European Parliament pledges more tolerance in special session marking 70-year anniversary of Kristallnacht. Israeli, Arab representatives invited to take part.

The European Parliament held a special assembly on Monday evening under a banner of promoting tolerance in the EU as the world marks 70 years since the Kristallnacht took place.

Honored guests included Rabbi Meir Lau, formerly Israel's chief rabbi and the newly appointed chairman of Yad Vashem, European dignitaries and representatives from Arab nations – including Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

"I speak today as a German about the dark chapter in my country's history. The past obligates us to sustain a better future. We have learned we must not close our eyes," said Hans-Gert Pötering, president of the European Parliament. "It took us hundreds of years to learn the value of tolerance, and we must not take it for granted. In recent years once more we witness anti-Semitism and xenophobia, and there is cause for concern."

Egypt's extraordinary ambassador and commissioner to the EU, Dr. Mahmoud Karim, also addressed the parliament. "Not one of us denies the Holocaust, we are far beyond that. The only one who denies it is the president of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, and he is not an Arab," said Karim. The ambassador called the Holocaust "terrible," and said "we must work together to make sure it never happens again."

In a press conference held before the parliament session, Moshe Kantor, head of the European Jewish Congress, and Aleksander Kwasniewski, former president of Poland and chairman of the EU Council on Tolerance, presented the outline of a new plan to end xenophobia in Europe.

Kwasniewski's council will also begin issuing an annual 'White Book,' detailing European achievements in the fight for tolerance.

The former Polish president said that the recent election of Barack Obama as president of the United States was encouraging. "This is a good lesson for tolerance. Why does America have an African-American president while Europe has racism and anti-Semitism?" he asked.

Kwasniewski warned that the economic crisis gripping the world may have a negative effect on race relations in the world and in Europe. "History teaches us that economic crises lead to intolerance. Fascism, communism and anti-Semitism were born out of crises. And although the world is very different today than it once was, we must be careful. Sometimes the fire starts from one spark. And we say now – 'Never again.'"

EUROPÄISCHER JÜDISCHER KONGRESS WARNT VOR ANTISEMITISMUS

Der Präsident des Europäischen Jüdischen Kongresses (EJC), Mosche Kantor, hat vor einem Wiederaufleben des Antisemitismus in Europa gewarnt. «Wir Juden fühlen uns heute, 70 Jahre nach der Kristallnacht, in Europa weniger sicher als in den Nachkriegsjahrzehnten», sagte Kantor am Montag in Brüssel. Es sei erschreckend, wie sehr das Gedächtnis an den Holocaust einer Banalisierung des Geschehenen gewichen sei.

In nahezu allen Ländern Europas könne man heute ungehindert antisemitische Literatur kaufen, so Kantor. Die Zahl der Neonazis in Europa sei weitaus größer als die der Juden. «Was sich einige Länder heute politisch erlauben, wäre noch vor zehn Jahren unvorstellbar gewesen», sagte der EJC-Präsident am Rande einer EU-Veranstaltungsreihe zur Erinnerung an die Novemberprogrome von 1938.

RECORDARON LA NOCHE DE LOS CRISTALES ROTOS EN BRUSELAS

El Parlamento Europeo celebró una asamblea extraordinaria bajo la bandera de la promoción de la tolerancia en la UE para marcar los setenta años de cuando la Kristallnacht se llevó a cabo.

Entre los invitados figuraban el rabino Meir Lau, ex gran rabino de Israel y recién nombrado presidente de Yad Vashem, dignatarios europeos y representantes de naciones árabes, entre ellos Egipto y Arabia Saudita.

"Hablo hoy como un alemán sobre el oscuro capítulo en la historia de mi país. El pasado nos obliga a garantizar un futuro mejor. Hemos aprendido que no debemos cerrar los ojos", expresó Hans-Gert Pötering, presidente del Parlamento Europeo. "Nos tomó cientos de años para aprender el valor de la tolerancia, y no debemos darlo por sentado. En los últimos años, una vez más, somos testigos de antisemitismo y xenofobia, y es motivo de preocupación", agregó.

El embajador extraordinario de Egipto y comisionado en la UE, el doctor Mahmoud Karim, también se dirigió al parlamento. "Ninguno de nosotros niega el Holocausto, estamos mucho más allá. El único que lo niega es el presidente de Irán, Mahmud Ahmadineyad, y él no es un árabe", afirmó Karim. El embajador calificó el Holocausto "terrible", y dijo que "debemos trabajar juntos para asegurarnos que nunca vuelva a suceder".

En una conferencia de prensa celebrada antes de las sesiones del parlamento, Moshe Kantor, jefe del Congreso Judío Europeo, y Alexander Kwasniewski, ex presidente de Polonia y presidente del Consejo de la UE sobre la Tolerancia, presentaron el esbozo de un nuevo plan para poner fin a la xenofobia en Europa.

El ex presidente polaco dijo que la reciente elección de Barack Obama como presidente de los Estados Unidos es alentador. "Esta es una buena lección para la tolerancia. ¿Por qué EEUU tiene un afro-americano presidente, mientras que Europa tiene el racismo y el antisemitismo?", se preguntó.

Kwasniewski advirtió que la crisis económica que azota el mundo puede tener un efecto negativo sobre las relaciones raciales en el mundo y en Europa. "La historia nos enseña que las crisis económicas conducen a la intolerancia. El fascismo, el comunismo y el antisemitismo nacieron fuera de las crisis. Y aunque el mundo es muy diferente hoy de lo que una vez fue, hay que tener cuidado. A veces el fuego se inicia a partir de una chispa. Y nosotros decimos "Nunca más".

'TOLERANCE' IS NOT THE LESSON OF KRISTALLNACHT

Sunday was the 70th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the night of broken glass. With some notable exceptions, Europe has opted to mark the occasion by missing its point. "We must not be silent," said German Chancellor Angela Merkel at a memorial ceremony in Berlin's renovated Rykestrasse synagogue, one of the few that was not burned down that night by the Nazis -- though 2,200 others were, as crowds of German or Austrian citizens looked on. "There can be no tolerance, for example, if the safety of the state of Israel is threatened by Hamas, Hezbollah and Iran." Well said. Maybe the chancellor will turn next to the issue of the 2,000 German companies that still do business with Tehran, whose exports are up more than 14% this year.

Less well said is a "white paper on tolerance," which, along with a draft of a "European Framework Convention on Promoting Tolerance and Combating Intolerance," was presented yesterday at a conference at the European Parliament in Brussels. The meeting is generating interest in part because of the participation of representatives from Saudi Arabia, Egypt and other Muslim states -- none of which are especially known for their solicitude toward Jews.

Maybe they've had a change of heart. Alternatively, they might have figured out that the banner of "tolerance" -- a word that means nothing -- can serve their purposes as well as the "peace" movement once served the Soviet Union.

To be sure, neither the white paper nor the framework convention is short on references to anti-Semitism and its "current increase . . . in many European countries." But the drafters of the convention also claim to be "profoundly convinced that combating anti-Semitism, while requiring a specific type of action, is an integral and intrinsic component of the fight against racism."

With this premise, the convention proposes various legal penalties for the "dissemination of any ideas based upon racial superiority or hatred," as well as policies to promote "special positive measures to further equal social development and ensure the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of all victims" of discrimination.

But if that sounds relatively anodyne, consider the ways in which radical Islamists in Europe have been using hate-speech codes to their advantage. In 2005, the Times of London reported that the radical Islamist group Hizb ut-Tahrir -- proscribed in Germany for distributing anti-Semitic literature -- had launched a recruiting drive on college campuses under the aegis of a "Stop Islamophobia" campaign. In Belgium, the leader for several years of the Arab European League, which claimed to defend Antwerp's Muslim immigrant Moroccan community against police harassment, was Dyab Abou Jahjah, himself a Lebanese member of Hezbollah.

Then there is the instructive, albeit complex, case of the Cologne mosque project. An enormous structure designed to accommodate 4,000 worshippers, it was approved by city hall and sponsored by the Turkish-Islamic Union (or DITIB), an umbrella group considered to be relatively moderate. Given that 12% of Cologne's population is Muslim, it seems a reasonable accommodation.

Yet the sheer scale of the project aroused widespread unease. In September, a group called "pro-Cologne" -- some, though by no means all, of whose members had ties to anti-immigrant parties such as the Flemish Vlaams Belang -- attempted to hold an anti-Islamification Congress. They were thwarted by an estimated 40,000 protestors throwing paint bombs and chanting "No Koelsch [beer] for Nazis."

Superficially, at least, the protestors seemed to have achieved a worthy objective against some unsavory characters. Yet as John Rosenthal of the invaluable WorldPoliticsReview Web site points out, Germany's actual Nazis took a different view.

"Inasmuch as it is a determined opponent of the western-plutocratic one-world policy, we regard Islam, globally considered, as an ally against the mammonistic dominance of the American east coast" went a statement published by the neo-Nazi North German Action Office, using the words "American east coast" as a euphemism for Jews. "Pro-Cologne's" superficial populism

against Islam sends a completely wrong signal, about which only pro-Israel circles could be happy."

This isn't to say that the Cologne protestors are closet neo-Nazis. Nor is DITIB a radical group, at least compared to Hizb ut-Tahrir. Yet DITIB refuses to distinguish between Islam (a religion) and Islamism (a political idea) and accuses anyone who has an unkind word to say about the latter of being a "racist."

Much the same goes for other "mainstream" Islamic groups in Europe, who would find in the proposed "framework convention" a useful tool through which to shut down serious and legitimate concerns about the rise of Islamism -- along with its usual cargo of Israel- and Jew-hatred -- in Europe. One perverse result is that these groups will now be in a position to dictate the terms of what constitutes acceptable speech. Also perverse, and a process that's already in train, is that European moderates will increasingly find themselves marching into the arms of parties like the Vlaams Belang.

So here we are, 70 years after Kristallnacht, as good an example as any of what happens when the evil of the few (or, perhaps, not-so-few) takes advantage of the cowardice of the many. If there's a lesson here, it's in the need not for "tolerance," but for moral courage. Now as before, Europe finds it in short supply.

MUSLIM STATES TO JOIN EU KRISTALLNACHT MEMORIAL

Unprecedented Muslim representation was seen at the Nov. 10 "Special Event Promoting Tolerance Throughout the European Continent" at the European Parliament in Brussels. Representatives of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Pakistan, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Libya, Morocco, Turkey and Malaysia, among others, attended the event, part of the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of Kristallnacht. The event was organized jointly by the European Parliament and the European Jewish Congress. (Jerusalem Post, Nov. 10)

Days before the event, members from all parties of the German parliament passed a resolution seeking to counter anti-Semitism in the country. The measure requires the government to develop a report on anti-Semitic behavior and sentiment in the country, and to provide funding for school programs designed to combat anti-Semitism.

The legislation was delayed last month due to objections from the opposition Left Party—which rejected text condemning anti-Semitism in pre-reunification East Germany. As a result, two identical resolutions were passed—one signed by the Left Party, the other signed by the remaining four parties.

The US State Department now issues yearly reports to Congress on anti-Semitism around the world in the wake of President George W. Bush's 2004 signing of the Global Anti-Semitism Review Act of 2004. The act created an anti-Semitism office within the State Department and mandated an annual review and report on global anti-Semitism, in much the same way that the Department already reported on human rights and religious freedom.

EU-GEDENKEN AN POGROMNACHT VON 1938

Das Europäische Parlament hat am Montagabend in einer Sondersitzung der Reichspogromnacht vor 70 Jahren gedacht. Zu den Ehrengästen zählten der frühere israelische Oberrabbiner Meir Lau sowie Vertreter aus arabischen Staaten, darunter auch Saudi-Arabien.

Wie die Zeitung "Jediot Aharonot" berichtet, sagte Parlamentspräsident Hans-Gert Pöttering in seiner Ansprache: "Ich spreche heute als Deutscher über das dunkle Kapitel in der Geschichte meines Landes. Die Vergangenheit verpflichtet uns, uns für eine bessere Zukunft stark zu machen. Wir haben gelernt, dass wir nicht unsere Augen verschließen dürfen. Wir haben Hunderte Jahre gebraucht, um den Wert der Toleranz zu lernen, und wir dürfen sie nicht voraussetzen. In den vergangenen Jahren werden wir einmal mehr Zeugen von Antisemitismus und Fremdenhass, und es gibt Grund zur Besorgnis."

Der ägyptische Sonderbotschafter und Beauftragte bei der EU, Mahmud Karim, sprach ebenfalls vor dem Europäischen Parlament: "Keiner von uns leugnet den Holocaust, wir sind weit davon entfernt. Der Einzige, der ihn leugnet, ist der Präsident des Iran, Mahmud Ahamadinedschad, und er ist kein Araber." Den Holocaust bezeichnete der Ägypter als "schrecklich", und er fügte hinzu: "Wir müssen zusammenarbeiten, um sicherzustellen, dass es nie wieder passiert."

Plan zur Beendigung der Fremdenfeindlichkeit

Vor der Sitzung hatten der Vorsitzende des Europäischen Jüdischen Kongresses, Moshe Kantor, und der frühere polnische Präsident Aleksander Kwasniewski einen neuen Plan präsentiert, der die Fremdenfeindlichkeit in Europa beenden soll. Der Pole, der den EU-Rat für Toleranz leitet, bezeichnete den Sieg von Barack Obama bei der US-Präsidentenwahl als ermutigend. "Dies ist eine gute Lektion für Toleranz. Warum hat Amerika einen afrikanisch-amerikanischen Präsidenten, während Europa Rassismus und Antisemitismus hat?"

Zudem warnte Kwasniewski vor einem negativen Einfluss der weltweiten Finanzkrise auf die Beziehungen der Rassen. "Die Geschichte lehrt uns, dass ökonomische Krisen zu Intoleranz führen. Faschismus, Kommunismus und Antisemitismus wurden aus Krisen geboren. Und obwohl die Welt heute sehr viel anders ist als einst, müssen wir vorsichtig sein. Manchmal entsteht das Feuer durch einen Funken. Und wir sagen jetzt: 'Nie wieder'."

Der Toleranzrat soll ein jährliches "Weißbuch" beginnen, in dem die europäischen Erfolge im Kampf für Toleranz aufgelistet werden.

Hintergrund Pogromnacht

In der Reichspogromnacht vom 9. auf den 10. November 1938 hatten die Nazis in ganz Deutschland zahlreiche Juden verhaftet. Der von der SA initiierten Aktion fielen 91 Juden zum Opfer. Über 250 Synagogen wurden in Brand gesteckt, etwa 2.500 jüdische Geschäfte und Wohnungen geplündert und zerstört. Die Aktion wurde als "Vergeltung" für das Attentat auf den deutschen Legationsrat in Paris, Ernst vom Rath, durch den Juden Herschel Grynszpan deklariert. Reichspropagandaminister Joseph Goebbels sprach von einem "spontanen Volkszorn". Juden wurden in der Folge systematisch aus dem Wirtschaftsleben verdrängt. Die Pogromnacht schuf zudem die Voraussetzungen für eine Deportation der Juden in Sammellager und damit für den Holocaust.

BELGIAN PM: 'WE MUST BE AWAKEFUL FOR A NEW ANTI-ZIONISM THAT IS A HIDDEN ANTI-SEMITISM'

Belgian Prime Minister Yves Leterme said "we must be wakeful for a new anti-semitism sometimes too easy trivialized, and for a new anti-Zionism that is a hidden anti-Semitism that in reality has not accepted the existence of the state of Israel even 60 years after its foundation."

Speaking at a dinner Monday night organized in Brussels by the European Jewish Congress (EJC) to commemorate the 75th anniversary of 'Kristallnacht', the 1938 anti-Jewish pogroms, and promote tolerance throughout Europe, Leterme said unfortunately intolerance is a recurring phenomenon.

"Therefore the lessons of Kristallnacht must be learned again and again. Forgetting paves the way for troops of intolerance to march again."

"Promoting tolerance is one of the core business of education, especially on a continent that is more and more a multicultural and multi-religious society."

The Prime Minister recalled his reaction to Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's statements before the United Nations General Assembly in September: "It is the duty of the political leaders to systematically refuse statements that are outrageous or hateful. The anti-Semitic views expressed by the Iranian President are totally unacceptable and I condemn those vigorously."

He said Europe "cannot turn its back on Israel."

"Israel is linked to the history of Europe, for more than one reason. We cannot speak about the foundation of the Jewish State without mentioning the Holocaust. The dream of a new Eretz Yisrael was born in Europe in the hearts and minds of Theodor Herzl and his followers. Since many centuries, in many thousands of European Jewish households, Pesach, the Jewish feast of Easter, ends with the wish 'Next Year in Jerusalem.' "

Earlier on Monday, Moshe Kantor, president of the European Jewish Congress, warned that the situation of Jews in Europe "is worse than it was 60 years ago."

"Today we feel worse than after WWII," Kantor said at a press conference with former Polish president Aleksander Kwasniewski, who chairs the recently launched European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation.

"What politicians and governments nowadays in Europe permit themselves is something which we could not have imagined 10 or 20 years ago," Kantor said.

"There are today more neo-Nazis in Europe than there are Jews," he stressed.

"The world is once again in danger," Kantor said. "The worldwide financial crisis is again creating fertile ground for anti-Semitism and intolerance."

Based in Paris, the European Jewish Congress is an umbrella body federating the 40 elected leaders of national Jewish communities in Europe.

IS TOLERANCE AND RECONCILIATION ENOUGH?

Is tolerance and reconciliation the antidote to racism and anti-Semitism? Moshe Kantor, the head of the European Jewish Congress, seems to think so as he promotes a new initiative this week to combat prejudice and hate in Europe.

So does Rabbi Marc Schneier, who is organizing a “Weekend of Twinning” between 50 synagogues and mosques in the United States later this month, touted in a full-page ad in The New York Times today. This on top of an interfaith gathering at the United Nations this week that will feature King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia.

But there are skeptics, as Bret Stephens of the Wall Street Journal writes. And others wonder whether the Saudi initiative is more of a public relations ploy more than anything else. Some Jews will be sitting down with the king to find out.

ופיוס לסובלנות האירופית המועצה הושקה

שורץ עדי מאת

לבריסל "הארץ" שליח

אתמול אמר כך - "השנייה העולם מלחמת אחרי מיד מאשר רע יותר הרבה באירופה כיום מרגישים יהודים" כחלק. "סופיו לסובלנות האירופית המועצה" של ההשקה באירוע, האירופי היהודי הקונגרס ר"יו, קנטור משה בבריסל מרשה שאירופה מה לעצמם מדמיינים היו לא יהודים" כי אתמול קנטור אמר, הבדולח לליל שנה 70 לציון מהאירועים ובאותו 'מההיסטוריה חלק כבר זה, דף תהפכו? השואה על מדברים עוד אתם למה?, לנו אומרים לפעמים. בתחומה כיום בעקביות שמופיעים אנטישמיים ועיתונים נאציים-ניאו ספרים של ופרס, יהודיים קברים של חילול רואים אנחנו הזמן "זה כלפי סובלניות אירופה וממשלות היבשת ברחבי

פולין נשיא, המועצה ר"יו. לשעבר אירופיים ונשיאים ממשלות ראשי חברים ופיוס לסובלנות האירופית במועצה אירופה מדינות לכלל משותפת חוקית מסגרת לכוון היא המועצה מטרת כי אתמול אמר, קוושניבסקי אלכסנדר לשעבר ספרד ממשלת ראש, השאר בין, חברים שבה, המועצה. אנטישמיות זה בכלל, זרים שנאת של הצורות בכל במאבקן גיליון" מעין 2009-ב החל לפרסם מתכוונת, פרשון ירן לשעבר שוודיה ממשלת וראש אסנאר מריה חוסה לשעבר שוויון למען החוקים של האכיפה מידת ולפי, שבקרוב והזרים למיעוטים יחסן לפי השונות רופהאי למדינות "ציונים הזדמנויות

פוליטיות לתופעות בעבר הביאו חריפים כלכליים משברים" כי, קוושניבסקי אתמול אמר ההשקה באירוע קנטור. "לגבור עשויה מיותהאנטיש, העולמי הכלכלי המשבר לנוכח, כעת גם. ונאציזם פשיזם כגון, שליליות הבדולח לליל שנה 70 לציון, האירופי הפרלמנט מוזמנים מאות בהשתתפות מרשים באירוע אמש השתתפו וקוושניבסקי בבניין הטקס לכללי בניגוד, האיחוד מדינות 27 דגלי בין התנופה ישראל דגל. אירופה ברחבי הסובלנות קידום ולמען הזרים בשנאת מהגידול מודאג להיות סיבות כיום יש" כי אמר, האירופי הפרלמנט שיאנ, פטרינג גרט הנס. הפרלמנט "באירופה והאנטישמיות

לאיחוד מצרים שגריר. "הארץ" לשאלות להשיב סירב באירוע שהשתתף האירופי לאיחוד סעודיה שגריר, אד'אחמדינג מחמוד הוא שואה ישמכח שהוא היחיד. השואה את שמכחישה ערבית מדינה כיום אין" אמר, קרים מחמוד (פרסי שהוא כוונתו) "ערבי לא בכלל והוא

KRISTALLNACHT VISITS TODAY'S CONCERNS

They still hear sounds of breaking glass, still smell the fire, still feel a parent's hand protectively close over their own. And they still feel fear.

Those who remember the events of Kristallnacht 70 years ago may be ever fewer, but their memories are vivid. At memorial events over the weekend in Brussels and Berlin, the witnesses brought home the details.

Hundreds of ceremonies around the world, large and small, marked the anniversary of what was a turning point leading to the Nazi genocide of European Jewry. In Berlin and Brussels, speakers also focused on current concerns, including rising anti-Semitism and Iran's threatening posture toward Israel.

It is not enough to merely worry, said Moshe Kantor, the head of the European Jewish Congress who was in Brussels to introduce a project to promote tolerance in Europe.

The project is to include an annual paper on best practices promoting tolerance and a "convention of tolerance" to serve as a model for legislation designed to protect Europeans from discrimination on the basis of "ethnic, cultural, linguistic, sexual or religious identity."

A draft of the convention, with 39 articles, was distributed Monday at the E.U. Parliament. It includes a list of nine anti-Semitic acts that should be punishable by law, including acts of violence against people and the desecration of religious sites.

Speaking at Berlin's Rykestrasse Synagogue on Sunday morning, Charlotte Knobloch, the president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, remembered picking her way through shards of glass on the sidewalks of Munich with her father 70 years ago. Knobloch, now 76, urged that Germany's most active far-right political party today be banned.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel told the gathering that tolerance must not be neutral and passive. She said that Iran and Hezbollah calling for the destruction of Israel must not be tolerated.

In Brussels, standing on the bimah of the 130-year-old Great Synagogue of Europe, Rabbi Arthur Schneier, 78, said he could still recall the sound of "the SS and SA destroying everything in sight" in his home city of Vienna on Nov. 9, 1938.

"I saw and felt glass all over the street, and as I approached my synagogue ... I saw that it was set afire—and the fire brigade was standing by, not doing anything," said Schneier, the spiritual leader of the Park East Synagogue in New York.

"They called it spontaneous, but it was not spontaneous," said Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, former chief rabbi of Israel. Born in Poland, Lau survived concentration camps but lost most of his family in the Holocaust.

The Nazis thought "that if they touched us at this point, the center of our lives, if they burned our Torahs, we would have no chance," said Lau, who has been named the new chairman of the Yad Vashem Council.

Few people heeded the warning signs in 1938, but the new warnings – especially threats by Iran – must not be ignored, said Kantor, the Russian-born head of the European Jewish Congress, addressing some 500 guests at the ceremony in Brussels.

Those who fail to respond today are playing into the hands of the Hitlers of tomorrow, said Kantor, whose "week of tolerance" this week includes meetings at the European Parliament followed by a rabbinical gathering in Prague. The goal is to unite American, European and Russian leaders in forging new approaches to fighting xenophobia and anti-Semitism, he said.

The projects represent an unprecedented collaboration between the European Parliament and a Jewish nongovernmental organization, the EJC's secretary-general, Arie Zuckerman, told JTA.

Among those attending the events in Brussels were representatives of several Arab countries, including Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Morocco, according to EJC officials.

Among those who spoke at the gathering on tolerance Monday were Aleksander Kwasniewski, the former president of Poland and chairman of the new European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation; Hans-Gert Poettering, the president of the European Parliament; Spanish Senator Luis Maria de Puig, the president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; and two Holocaust survivors, Lau and author Samuel Pizar of the United States.

The E.U. commission president, Manuel Durao Barroso, who was unable to attend the event, has drafted a “directive against all forms of discrimination.” Last spring, conservative and leftist members of the European Parliament clashed over whether existing legislation in member states was sufficient to protect minority groups.

The newly proposed convention, observers say, might help overcome different legal approaches in European member states.

At the Brussels remembrance, Kantor called Kristallnacht Adolf Hitler’s “first test” to see whether people would stand up for the Jews. Afterward, Hitler was “completely sure that the German people would not protect the Jews, their neighbors and friends of yesterday,” he said.

Kantor, who also heads the World Holocaust Forum, said U.N. members today fail to protest when Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad makes anti-Semitic statements at the General Assembly.

He also noted that even though Iran is developing nuclear weapons, thousands of European companies continue to do \$100 billion in business with the Islamic Republic.

'הבדולח ליל בטכס' ישתתפו מוסלמיות מדינות

מבנוכחות להיות עתיד האירופי בפרלמנט "הבדולח ליל" הנוראי לפוגרום שנה 70 ציון כי מדווח פוסט רוזלם'ג טורקיה, מרוקו, פקיסטן, מצרים, הסעודית ערב, האמירויות איחוד, קטאר, לוב כמו ומוסלמיות ערביות מדינות נציגי של שכותרתו בבריסל מחר שיתקיים המיוחד באירוע נציגים אותם השתתפות לאור תקרה המפתיעה הנוכחות. ומלזיה "אירופה יבשת ברחבי סובלנות לקידום המיוחד האירוע"

כשבמהלכו יהודים מאות ניספו בו 1938-ב בגרמניה הנוראי לטבח שנה 70 לציון מהאירוע חלק הוא זה ירועא נשיאות עם בשיתוף האירופי היהודי הקונגרס י"ע מאורגן האירוע. יהודים חנויות וכן נשרפו כנסת בתי לאלף מעל האירופי האיחוד

ניתן המוסלמי העולם לנציגי. מוסלמית משמעותית ציגותנ יכלול כזה גודל בסדר שאירוע הראשונה הפעם זו "גדולה הצלחה"ב מדובר כי העולמי היהודי הקונגרס נשיא סגן, שטרן מראם סבור לכן, להגיע אישור מתאים אירוע הוא הבדולח ליל 70-ה השנה יום ציון כי אמר, קנטור משה, האירופאי היהודי הקונגרס נשיא, קנטור לטענת, היום. "הרוע כלפי העולם של הסובלנות", סובלנות של אחר סוג מציין שהוא ונכיו, סובלנות על לדיון ם"לאו בעייתית מדינה של מנהיג להגיע יכול היום". איראן של הגרעיניות לשאיפות ביחס מתבטאת שכזו סובלנות "צבמ באותו אנו. האולם מן יצא לא אחד אף אך, היהודים ולמות ישראל להשמדת ולקרוא מהסכנות והתעלם יהודיים פליטים של קבלתם את דחה העולם, הבדולח ליל של בתקופה כי מזכיר קנטור "באיראן שמתחולל מה כלפי פושע באופן סובלן להיות יכול לא העולם סובלנות בחוסר שנאבקים בזמן. להם שארבו

KRISTALLNACHT REMEMBERED BY COMMUNITY

As Jewish communities around the world commemorated the seventieth anniversary of Kristallnacht, a rose laid on track 17 of Grunewald railway station in Berlin recalled the tens of thousands of Jews deported to their deaths from the site in the months and years that followed the infamous Night of the Broken Glass.

Giving voice to the symbolic gesture, Hans-Gert Pottering, President of the European Parliament, told dignitaries at the body's commemorative event: "Kristallnacht was the beginning of Auschwitz. Some, many, too many - on the name of appeasement - failed to see the omen."

Echoing that sentiment, the President of the European Jewish Congress, Moshe Kantor, criticised the world's "criminally tolerant" attitude towards Hitler, noting: "Tolerance can be both a medicine and a poison."

The parliamentary gathering was but one of a series of events in Brussels marking the anniversary. As well as a service at the Great Synagogue, attended by more than 500 political and Jewish leaders from across the continent, Kantor and Aleksander Kwasniewski held a conference to lay out their plans for tackling anti-semitism and racism in Europe. The former Polish president, now Chairman of the European Council for Tolerance and Reconciliation, said: "The world watched Kristallnacht without reacting. We must react and organise public opinion.

"Without it, authoritarian regimes will move forwards with their plans."

Elsewhere on the continent, Pope Benedict XVI urged Roman Catholics worldwide to "pray for the victims of yesteryear".

"Even today," he said, "I feel pain at what happened in these tragic circumstances, of which the memory must serve to ensure such horrors never happen again."

Addressing congregants at Berlin's Rykestrasse Synagogue, meanwhile, German Chancellor Angela Merkel condemned anti-semitism and racism as "a threat to our basic values", reiterating the theme that in the face of such persecution and discrimination, "we must not be silent".

In Israel, Ehud Olmert opened his weekly cabinet meeting with a declaration that "we will never forgive or forget".

The Prime Minister said: "This phenomenon of a population being led through the streets, beaten and humiliated, while the German public looked on as if it were a given, as if it were an inseparable part of the daily routine that needed to characterise their country is both unforgiveable and unforgettable."

Closer to home, a number of Jewish communities in Britain joined those on the continent who shone a light in their shul and school buildings on the night of 9 November, as a memorial to the victims. "We are unable to change the past," said United Synagogue Chief Executive Jeremy Jacobs, "but by uniting as a community and remembering these events, we can educate others about discrimination and intolerance, and help build a brighter future."

Chief Rabbi Sir Jonathan Sacks, who joined a 200-strong congregation at a service hosted by the Barnet and Alei Tzion communities, said: "May the candles of memory light our way to a more gracious world."

ARAB ENVOYS FLOCK TO EUROPEAN UNION KRISTALLNACHT MEMORIAL

A new project for tolerance and reconciliation was formally launched in Brussels at ceremonies marking the Kristallnacht pogrom — also attended by eU representatives from arab states including Saudi Arabia.

A European Jewish Congress spokesman said it was the first time so many representatives from Arab delegations attended an event co-sponsored by a Jewish organisation at the EU Parliament, and that representatives of the missions from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Morocco were present.

Raya Kalenova of the EJC said the representatives of one Arab mission had asked to be sent further information on the events of Kristallnacht and about the Council on Tolerance. “It can be the beginning of important contacts,” she said, adding that “it was a little awkward, because we had israeli representatives also”.

Moshe Kantor, EJC president, said the initiative, a collaborative effort between the EJC and the European Parliament, will include an annual white paper on best practice to promote tolerance, and a Convention of Tolerance to serve as a model for legislation. The events in Brussels were among many events held across Europe marking the day.

In Berlin, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said that tolerance was not enough: “Strong condemnation and sometimes action are needed in the face of antisemitism and xenophobia. When Iran and Hizbollah call for the destruction of israel, this is not something that can be tolerated,” she said during a ceremony at Berlin’s Rykestrasse Synagogue.

CARMEN QUINTANILLA ASISTIÓ EN BRUSELAS A LA CONMEMORACIÓN DEL 70 ANIVERSARIO DEL HOLOCAUSTO

Redacción La diputada nacional del PP por Ciudad Real, Carmen Quintanilla, en su calidad de miembro de la Delegación Española en la Asamblea Parlamentaria del Consejo de Europa y como miembro de la Comisión designada por dicha Asamblea para tal fin ha participado esta semana en los actos conmemorativos que han tenido lugar en Bruselas con motivo del 70 Aniversario del Holocausto y del Tercer Foro Mundial del Holocausto.

Unos actos que, según manifestó, “deben servir para no olvidarnos del horror que vivieron miles de personas en los campos de concentración nazis y que debe servir también para animarnos a trabajar todos juntos para que tragedias como ésta, provocada por la intolerancia llevada a sus máximos extremos no se vuelva a repetir nunca”. En este sentido, la diputada popular ciudadrealeña destacó que “la mejor herramienta para evitar que la humanidad vuelva a cometer horrores de este tipo es fomentar y promover la tolerancia y éste debe ser, por tanto, el objetivo de todos los Gobiernos, de los Parlamentos y de toda la sociedad en general”.

Esta, según afirmó, “es la principal conclusión que se desprende de estos actos que se han centrado también en analizar la situación actual en Europa y sobre el hecho de establecer a los diversos países miembros las recomendaciones oportunas de cara a presentar un frente europeo unido contra cualquier manifestación de intolerancia que se pueda producir”.

El acto conmemorativo del 70 Aniversario del Holocausto y el Tercer Foro Mundial del Holocausto, organizados por el Congreso Judío Europeo coincidieron, precisamente, con la celebración del Año Europeo por el Diálogo Intercultural y el Día Internacional por la Tolerancia y en él participaron el Presidente del Parlamento Europeo, Hans-Gert Pötering; el presidente del Congreso Judío Europeo, Viatcheslav Moshe Kantor; dos supervivientes del Holocausto: el autor Samuel Pisar y el rabino jefe de Tel Aviv, Israel Meir Lau; el presidente de la Comisión Europea, José Manuel Durao Barroso; el presidente de la Asamblea Parlamentaria del Consejo de Europa, Lluís María de Puig i Olive y el presidente del Consejo Europeo para la Tolerancia y la Reconciliación y ex presidente de Polonia, H.E. Alexander Kwasniewski.

GESCHICHTE: WACHSAMKEIT AUCH IN ZUKUNFT GEFORDERT - 70 JAHRE REICHSPÖGROMNACHT /ZAHLREICHE GEDENKVERANSTALTUNGEN

Zum 70. Jahrestag des Judenpogroms in der Nacht vom 9. auf den 10. November 1938 haben sich in Karlsruhe zahlreiche Menschen bei Veranstaltungen mit dem einhelligen Wunsch "Nie wieder" gegen das Vergessen, Verdrängen und Verschweigen nationalsozialistischer Bestialität gewandt. Mit der so genannten Reichskristallnacht leiteten die Nazis öffentlich nach dem Einschränken der Bürgerrechte seit der Machtergreifung 1933 und der Erniedrigung zu Menschen zweiter Klasse durch die Nürnberger Rassengesetze 1935 - die Vernichtung der Juden ein. Überall gingen Synagogen in Flammen auf, wurden Geschäfte zerstört, Wohnungen verwüstet. Männer zwischen 16 und 60 Jahren verschwanden in Konzentrationslagern.

Karlsruhe machte keine Ausnahme: Die beiden Synagogen und Privateigentum wurden zerstört, über 400 Männer in das KZ Dachau deportiert. Bei Kriegsende lebten von den 3 358 jüdischen Bürgerinnen und Bürgern des Jahres 1933 lediglich noch 39 in der Stadt. Über 1 000 waren umgebracht worden, die anderen ins Exil geflohen. "Weder hier noch anderswo dürfen sich die Ereignisse vor 70 Jahren und deren Folgen wiederholen. Unsere Wachsamkeit ist gefordert, denn wir wissen, dass solch schreckliches Gedankengut auch heute entsteht und sogar Jugendliche verführt werden", stellte Oberbürgermeister Heinz Fenrich am Montag bei der gut besuchten, traditionellen Mahnwache in der Kronenstraße klar. In diesem "selbst verpflichtenden Sinne" gedachte er der Opfer. Sein Dank richtete sich an die Schülerinnen und Schüler der zehnten Klassen aus der Drais-Realschule, die dieses Jahr wachten und dabei über jüdische Gebräuche und Feiertage aufklärten. Kantor Moshe Hayoun von der jüdischen Kultusgemeinde betete "zum Gedenken an die als Märtyrer Umgekommenen".

Zuvor hatte die 87-jährige Zeitzeugin Edith Dietz im Lessinggymnasium vor Oberstufenschülern "vom angstvollen Gefühl des Ausgeliefertseins", dem Herzschlagtod ihres Vaters in der Pogromnacht, dem Selbstmord des Onkels, dem Ausschluss aus dem öffentlichen Leben ("wir trauten uns nicht mehr auf die Straße") und schließlich von der abenteuerlichen Flucht in die Schweiz berichtet. Zu Gedenkgebet und Gedenkminute waren bereits am Sonntag in der um 19 Uhr angestrahlten Synagoge an der Knielinger Allee rund 260 Menschen gekommen. Der Vorsitzende der stetig wachsenden, nun 850 Mitglieder umfassenden jüdischen Gemeinde, David Seldner, betonte, dass nach dem 9. November 1938 "niemand mehr sagen konnte, er habe von nichts gewusst". Hoffnungsvoll stimmte es ihn, der am Tag zuvor eine neue Synagoge in Lörrach mit eingeweiht hatte, dass heute "Juden wieder fester Bestandteil der deutschen Gesellschaft sind". Als Höhepunkt der Durlacher Reihe "... ein Himmel voll Brand" führte die Durlacher Kantorei unter Leitung von Johannes Blumenkamp am selben Abend in eindrucksvoller musikalischer Intensität Dietrich Lohffs Requiem für einen polnischen Jungen auf. Zugrunde liegen Texte von Opfern: "Für das, was wir ertragen ist jede Sprache stumm", singt ein namenloses jüdisches Kind zum Schluss.

Das spiegelte sich danach auch im Vortrag von Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Benz, TU Berlin, im Tollhaus wieder. Auf Einladung zahlreicher Institutionen hatte er, eingebettet in das sensible Spiel des Pianisten Boris Feiner, unter anderem die Literatur bei der Aufarbeitung des Nationalsozialismus einer kritischen Prüfung unterzogen. Fazit: Ob ins Groteske übersteigert (Heinrich Böll: Wo warst du Adam?), an der Wirklichkeit des NS-Terrors vorbeigehend (Bernhard Schlink: Der Vorleser) oder in Voyeurismus absinkend (Jonathan Littell: die Wohlgesinnten) gelingt es weder Literaten noch schreibenden Nachfahren wie Niklas Frank (peinlich) oder Albert Speer (virtuose Selbstdarstellung) die Geschehnisse angemessenen zu bearbeiten. Vielmehr dominiere die Gefahr, Täter auf ihre menschlichen Schwächen zu reduzieren. Nach dem Krieg habe oft ein krasses Missverhältnis zwischen den Strafen für die Täter und deren allzu bald wieder normalisierter Existenz bestanden.

BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES EUROPEAN JEWISH CONGRESS EVENT

Following is the full text of the speech by Belgian Prime Minister Yves Leterme at an event organized in Brussels by the European Jewish Congress and CCOJB, the umbrella body of Jewish organisations in Belgium, on November 10, 2008, to commemorate 70 years since "Kristallnacht", the anti-Jewish pogroms by the Nazis prelude to the Holocaust, and to promote tolerance throughout Europe.

"I'm very pleased to be here tonight and I'm honoured with this prize, the Navigator of Jerusalem. This prize is a compass. That instrument of orientation is a symbol of man's psychology and society's reality. No man can follow his path and no society can find its destiny without orientation.

Without a compass – or its modern version, the GPS – no navigator can head for the mainland. In order to head for the mainland of humanity and human dignity, man needs a compass too, the north pointing towards democracy and human rights.

The north of the compass I received out of your hands is marked with the name of the old city of Jerusalem. The Navigator of Jerusalem reminds us of the origin of our European vision on man and society. The European culture is unthinkable and inexplicable without the spiritual, religious, philosophical, cultural, and scientific heritage it received from Jerusalem.

Not only Christianity, with its roots in the Jewish history and in the Jewish Bible, was born in Jerusalem and brought the Jewish idea of creative exploring of the world to Europe. Also many Jewish scholars directly contributed to, or laid the foundations for sciences, arts, and philosophies we like to call European. This direct input of Jewish thinking dates from the beginning of the Diaspora in Roman times and never stopped.

We may be grateful for what Jerusalem brought us. For it learned us that we must master the art of dispute and doubt in order to find truth and to progress in knowledge. Discussion and debate are Jewish to the core. This Navigator reminds us of the origin of the duty of tolerance and the right to differ. As we all know, you cannot discuss and debate, if you do not give the other the freedom to express his own ideas and to explain his own thoughts. The right to differ presupposes the duty of tolerance.

That brings us to the heart of the matter. When tolerance ends, the end of humanity begins. Today we remember – and that is the reason of our being here together – that seventy years ago the right to differ was put to an end and the duty of tolerance was replaced by a policy of intolerance.

On the night between the 9th and the 10th of November 1938 an enormous anti-Semitic pogrom spread in waves across Germany. Kristallnacht, as this night of Nazi-hysteria was called, can be seen as the beginning of the Holocaust.

As the president of the European Jewish Congress said, "we all need to constantly remind ourselves how it all began". Unfortunately, intolerance is a recurring phenomenon. Therefore the lessons of Kristallnacht must be learned again and again. Forgetting paves the way for troops of intolerance to march again. And that we cannot tolerate.

That is the reason why I sent the following reaction to the Antwerp Jewish monthly Joods Actueel after the anti-Semitic statement of the president of the Iran Republic before the General Assembly of United Nations at the end of September: "It is the duty of the political leaders to systematically refuse statements that are outrageous or hateful. The anti-Semitic views expressed by the Iranian President are totally unacceptable. I condemn those vigorously."

We must be wakeful. I repeat today what I had already said earlier this year: "We must be wakeful for a new anti-Semitism, sometimes too easily trivialized. We must be wakeful for a new anti-Zionism that is a hidden anti-Semitism that in reality has not accepted the existence of the state of Israel, even sixty years after its foundation."

Europe cannot turn its back on Israel. For Israel is linked to the history of Europe, for more than one reason. We cannot speak about the foundation of the Jewish State without mentioning the Holocaust. There is more, the dream of a new Eretz Yisrael was born in Europe, in the hearts and

minds of Theodor Herzl and his followers in the 19th century. And since many centuries, in many thousands of European Jewish households, Pesach, the Jewish feast of Easter, ends with the wish: "Next year in Jerusalem!"

We must remind ourselves, therefore we must remember. Remembrance gives us the possibility to carry the burden of history. He who forgets, has lost his past, including the black pages of history. This means that he can be tempted to write them again. We must remind ourselves, so that history stays in our mind.

When Martin Buber received the Peace Prize of the Frankfurter Buchmesse in 1952, he made a plea for reconciliation with these words: "Versöhnung geschieht durch Erinnerung (Reconciliation takes place by remembrance)". Many years later, the German theologian Dorothee Sölle said the same thing in her own way: "Collective remembrance is the secret of liberation".

The Holocaust shook the foundations of civilization. That means that we never can take civilization for granted. To 'civilize' is something we must do, we must work on. Civilization begins with education. In 1998 the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research was set up, an initiative of the Swedish Prime Minister Göran Persson. Belgium joined this international task force. Membership allows Belgium to benefit from the network of researchers and educators, and from exchanges of good practices. By joining this international Task Force, Belgium confirmed its commitment to remembrance work as well as its commitment to fight racism and anti-Semitism. In Malines, the 'Kazerne Dossin', the location where during the war the Belgian Jews were put on the trains to Auschwitz and the other extermination camps, will become Memorial, Museum, and Documentation Centre on Holocaust and Human Rights.

Why are we doing this? Because we never can take tolerance and respect, the core values of civilization, for granted. Only when we know what the roots of anti-Semitism and intolerance are, we can avoid the return of what Primo Levi once summarized as follows: "The conviction that any stranger is an enemy, starts a process of dehumanization at the end of which we find a concentration camp."

In his autobiography *Ich nicht*, the former publisher of the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Joachim Fest, tells about his youth in Nazi-Germany. His father taught him again and again: "Even when everybody accepts barbarism, I never will!" Fest writes that he took a solemn pledge to never disappoint his father. He too said: "I, never!", and he did so. Through education and remembrance work we hope that our future generations can say and do the same: "We, never!"

Promoting tolerance is one of the core businesses of education, especially on a continent that is more and more a multicultural and multi-religious society. The compass of *The Navigator of Jerusalem* has Jerusalem as the focal point. The old city of Jerusalem, in the fullness of its meaning, is the north from which every place is situated. Jerusalem is a holy city of the three monotheistic religions, Jewish, Christian, and Muslim. Let it therefore be a symbol of the tolerance towards which we must be oriented.

Promoting tolerance can enhance the 'multicultural' reality of our modern society in the direction of 'intercultural' understanding, and the 'multi-religious' phenomenon in the direction of 'interreligious' dialogue.

Knowing each other is understanding each other. Understanding each other is giving each other his freedom of speech, freedom of conviction, freedom of religion, freedom of identity... freedom of being himself."

KRISTALLNACHT REMEMBRANCES VISIT TODAY'S CONCERNS

They still hear sounds of breaking glass, still smell the fire, still feel a parent's hand protectively close over their own. And they still feel fear.

Those who remember the events of Kristallnacht 70 years ago may be ever fewer, but their memories are vivid. At memorial events over the weekend in Brussels and Berlin, the witnesses brought home the details.

Hundreds of ceremonies, large and small, around the world marked the anniversary of what was a turning point leading to the Nazi genocide of European Jewry. In Berlin and Brussels, speakers also focused on current concerns, including rising anti-Semitism and Iran's threatening posture toward Israel.

It is not enough to merely worry, said Moshe Kantor, the head of the European Jewish Congress who was in Brussels to introduce a project to promote tolerance in Europe.

Speaking at Berlin's Rykestrasse Synagogue on Sunday morning, Charlotte Knobloch, the president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, remembered picking her way through shards of glass on the sidewalks of Munich with her father 70 years ago. Knobloch, now 76, urged that Germany's most active far-right political party today be banned.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel told the gathering that tolerance must not be neutral and passive. She that Iran and Hezbollah calling for the destruction of Israel must not be tolerated.

In Brussels, standing on the bimah of the 130-year-old Great Synagogue of Europe, Rabbi Arthur Schneier, 78, said he could still recall the sound of "the SS and SA destroying everything in sight" in his home city of Vienna on Nov. 9, 1938.

"I saw and felt glass all over the street, and as I approached my synagogue ... I saw that it was set afire — and the fire brigade was standing by, not doing anything," said Schneier, the spiritual leader of the Park East Synagogue in New York.

"They called it spontaneous, but it was not spontaneous," said Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau, former chief rabbi of Israel.

Born in Poland, Lau survived concentration camps but lost most of his family in the Holocaust.

The Nazis thought "that if they touched us at this point, the center of our lives, if they burned our Torahs, we would have no chance," said Lau, who has been named the new chairman of the Yad Vashem Council.

Few people heeded the warning signs in 1938, but the new warnings — especially threats by Iran — must not be ignored, said Kantor, the Russian-born head of the European Jewish Congress, addressing some 500 guests at the ceremony in Brussels.

Those who fail to respond today are playing into the hands of the Hitlers of tomorrow, said Kantor, whose "week of tolerance" includes meetings at the European Parliament followed by a rabbinical gathering in Prague. The goal is to unite American, European, and Russian leaders in forging new approaches to fighting xenophobia and anti-Semitism, he said.

In the works are a "White Book" describing exemplary programs that promote tolerance and a "convention of tolerance" to serve as a model for legislation across Europe.

Both projects represent an unprecedented collaboration between the European Parliament and a Jewish nongovernmental organization, the EJC's secretary-general, Arie Zuckerman, told JTA.

Among those who spoke at the gathering on tolerance Monday were French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner, representing the French presidency of the European Union; Aleksander Kwasniewski, the former president of Poland and chairman of the new European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation; Hans-Gert Pötering, the president of the European Parliament; Spanish Sen. Lluís Maria de Puig, the president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the

Council of Europe; and two Holocaust survivors, Lau and author Samuel Pizar of the United States.

At the Brussels remembrance, Kantor called Kristallnacht Adolf Hitler's "first test" to see whether people would stand up for the Jews. Afterward, Hitler was "completely sure that the German people would not protect the Jews, their neighbors and friends of yesterday."

Kantor, who also heads the World Holocaust Forum, said U.N. members today fail to protest when Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad makes anti-Semitic statements at the General Assembly. He also noted that even though Iran is developing nuclear weapons, thousands of European companies continue to do \$100 billion in business with the Islamic Republic.

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It is not enough to merely worry, said Moshe Kantor, the head of the European Jewish Congress who was in Brussels to introduce a project to promote tolerance in Europe.

The project is to include an annual paper on best practices promoting tolerance and a "convention of tolerance" to serve as a model for legislation designed to protect Europeans from discrimination on the basis of "ethnic, cultural, linguistic, sexual or religious identity."

A draft of the convention, with 39 articles, was distributed at the E.U. Parliament. It includes a list of nine anti-Semitic acts that should be punishable by law, including acts of violence against people and the desecration of religious sites.

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Among those attending the events in Brussels were representatives of several Arab countries, including Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Morocco, according to EJC officials.

Among those who spoke at the gathering on tolerance were Aleksander Kwasniewski, the former president of Poland and chairman of the new European Council on Tolerance and

Reconciliation; Hans-Gert Poettering, the president of the European Parliament; Spanish Senator Luis Maria de Puig, the president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; and two Holocaust survivors, Lau and author Samuel Pizar of the United States.

The E.U. commission president, Manuel Durao Barroso, who was unable to attend the event, has drafted a "directive against all forms of discrimination." Last spring, conservative and leftist members of the European Parliament clashed over whether existing legislation in member states was sufficient to protect minority groups.

The newly proposed convention, observers say, might help overcome different legal approaches in European member states.

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He also noted that even though Iran is developing nuclear weapons, thousands of European companies continue to do \$100 billion in business with the Islamic Republic.

EUROPE CONSIDERS UNIFYING ANTI-PREJUDICE LEGISLATION

The Council of Europe will consider over the next few years a new convention meant to standardize and unify anti-prejudice legislation throughout the council's member states.

The European Framework Convention on Promoting Tolerance and Combating Intolerance was presented in the European Parliament last week at a formal gathering commemorating 70 years since Kristallnacht. Its architects hope it will be adopted by the 47-member Council of Europe, a body that advocates for human rights and democracy, within four years.

The convention was developed by the European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation, a group formed at the initiative of the European Jewish Congress that includes many ex-heads of state, including its chairman former Polish president Aleksander Kwasniewski and former Spanish prime minister Jose Maria Aznar.

The ECTR conceived of the convention because of a serious gap in European law, explained Dr. Ireneusz Bil, the secretary-general of the group and the architect of the draft version.

"The legal basis for tolerance is very dispersed. Europe still lacks technical legal definitions for tolerance, discrimination, anti-Semitism and xenophobia," Bil said.

In a world where each state has different and often incompatible legislation on tolerance and intolerance, while borders are porous and filtering of objectionable or illegal content is nigh impossible, efforts to fight xenophobic and anti-Semitic groups are severely crippled.

The convention aims to change that reality, creating a process of careful examination that its architects hope will culminate in unified Europe-wide legislation outlawing many of the forms of intolerance that plague Europe's minorities today.

"The draft [presented last week] is just the first step of coordination," Bil said. The final result will be "a binding agreement for member states," who would be required to adopt appropriate national legislation to be part of the convention.

European Parliament President Dr. Hans-Gert Pottering has agreed to bring the convention to the parliament as a "citizens' proposal."

In parallel, Luis Maria de Puch, president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, will bring it to the council.

Pottering's and de Puch's endorsements are seen as promising early signs, say the campaigners for the initiative, focusing political attention on the document.

That sort of attention even brought ambassadors from Muslim and Arab countries to the parliamentary commemoration of Kristallnacht - though none but the Egyptian representatives spoke to the Israeli press.

OVER 100 KILLED IN RACIST ATTACKS

More than 100 people have been killed in hate crimes in Russia this year, with natives of Central Asia being the most frequently targeted victims, according to figures released this week by the Moscow Bureau for Human Rights.

Through Nov. 15, a total of 114 people died in racist attacks, 37 of whom hailed from the Central Asian republics of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, according to the nongovernmental organization.

Alexander Brod, head of the NGO, said this week that another 357 victims were injured in the 269 hate crimes that his organization managed to register in the same period, Interfax reported Tuesday.

Leading human rights activists and top government officials have warned in recent weeks that the global financial crisis could lead to a rise in nationalism and xenophobia in Russia.

Should the current crisis lead to widespread unemployment, migrant workers could become a lightning rod for resentment by Russians, who believe that their jobs are being taken by foreigners, said Semyon Charny, an analyst with the Moscow Bureau for Human Rights.

Nationalist movements could also actively capitalize on a possible rise in unemployment to broaden their bases, said Dmitry Badovsky, a political analyst with the Institute of Social Systems. "A certain rise in nationalist mood is possible," he said.

The prospect of ethnic animosity, exacerbated by economic unrest, has not gone unnoticed in the Kremlin. At a Nov. 7 conference in St. Petersburg, President Dmitry Medvedev warned that ultranationalist groups could use the financial crisis to promote racism, calling on law enforcement agencies to step up their investigations of hate crimes.

The issue of a possible surge in nationalism and xenophobia was addressed last week at a tolerance promotion event at the European Parliament's headquarters in Brussels.

"It's very easy to find an enemy when there are any economic difficulties and a loss of ideology," Russian Holocaust Foundation head Alla Gerber said on the sidelines of the Nov. 10 event.

Gerber, a member of the Public Chamber's commission on interethnic relations, said it could be advantageous for Russian authorities if widespread discontent over economic difficulties was directed toward foreigners. She stopped short, however, of blaming officials for fomenting ethnic animosity.

The Brussels event was dedicated to the 70th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the German pogrom against Jews in 1938, with speeches promoting tolerance.

"It is precisely at more difficult economic times that tolerance will be put to the test," Lluís Maria de Puig i Olive, Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly president, said in his speech.

U.S. attorney and author Samuel Pizar, a Polish-born Holocaust survivor, recalled in his speech how the Great Depression triggered a wave of anti-semitism in Europe.

"The world where I was born was in a financial crisis vaguely similar to the one we see today," Pizar, 79, told the audience. "At the root of [the anti-semitism] was hate but mostly fear. People feared for their pensions, savings."

In such a situation, Pizar said, it was easy to "find a scapegoat" in the Jews.