

**Question for written answer E-006165/2018  
to the Council**  
Rule 130  
**Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: IHRA definition of anti-Semitism

On 6 December 2018, the Justice and Home Affairs Council analysed and voted in favour of a Council Declaration on the fight against antisemitism and the development of a common security approach to better protect Jewish communities and institutions in Europe. The fight against anti-Semitism is relevant and cannot be manipulated for other purposes. Paragraph 2 of the Council Declaration calls on Member States to adopt the 'IHRA definition' of anti-Semitism – a manipulated definition, insofar as it seeks to equate any criticism of the State of Israel's policy to anti-Semitism. This definition is contested by a number of lawyers and by the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights. Moreover, 40 Jewish organisations<sup>1</sup> have recently appealed to governments not to adopt this definition, claiming that its purpose is 'to deliberately confuse legitimate criticism of the State of Israel and the protection of the rights of the Palestinian people with anti-Semitism'.

What is the justification for the decision? Was account taken of the highly negative impact it will have on the free expression of the social and political rights of the Palestinian people and all organisations which challenge this authoritarian drift in Israel that undermines democracy?

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.france-palestine.org/Appel-a-action-le-Conseil-europeen-doit-rejeter-la-definition-IHRA-de-l>