

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2022/06

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to the Council

Subject: Anti-Semitic acts in Italy on Liberation Day

Incidents clearly inspired by anti-Semitism took place during a demonstration held in Milan on 25 April this year to commemorate the 61st anniversary of Italy's liberation from Nazi occupation.

During the demonstration Israeli flags were burnt to a chorus of insults against the State of Israel. A group of protesters consisting of 'anarchists' and trouble-makers also insulted and tried to halt the progress of a group of protesters belonging to the Jewish Brigade, a movement that fought Nazism in Italy and was actively committed to opposing anti-Semitism during World War II.

Letizia Moratti, the Italian Minister for Education, Universities and Research, and Father Paolo Bricchetto Arnaboldi - who is a disabled survivor of the Dachau extermination camp and was awarded the Silver Medal for Resistance against Nazism - were both subjected to repeated insults and catcalls.

These events are all the more serious because they happened during demonstrations celebrating the liberation of Italy and Europe.

In view of all this can the Council say:

1. whether it does not consider that the measures recently adopted to combat anti-Semitism are inadequate, not least in view of the fact that similar incidents have taken place in Rome over the last few months;
2. what steps it will take to tackle the now widespread resurgence of anti-Semitic sentiments in various EU countries?