

Europäisches Parlament, Nicola Beer, WIB 03M003, Rue Wiertz 60, B-1047 Brüssel

Frau Präsidentin  
Ursula von der Leyen  
Europäische Kommission

**Nicola Beer MdEP**  
Vizepräsidentin des Europäischen Parlaments  
Staatsministerin a.D.

27.02.2020

Dear President von der Leyen,

We are addressing this letter to you concerning the despicable display of antisemitic imagery at the Carnival of Aalst.

We count on your support in this matter and we are determined to gather our efforts, so that we, the Members of the European Parliament, and you, the representatives of the European Commission, can speak up united with one voice.

On February 18th, the European Parliament Working Group against Antisemitism already asked the local authorities in Aalst to ban and clearly prevent all forms of antisemitism, racism and hatred during this year's Aalst carnival procession. Apparently without any success.

Again, antisemitic caricatures showing Jews with hooked noses and curly locks have been displayed and even worse, Jews have been depicted as insects what is truly disturbing and alarming.

Further, it is more than obvious that those responsible do not want to acknowledge or reflect on the consequences and repercussions their actions have on society. On the contrary, it seems that their desire to insult and hurt others has even grown compared to the last year's edition of the carnival.

We understand that pushing boundaries, ridiculing the powerful and mocking each other is the essence of carnival.

What happened in Aalst, however, has nothing to do with entertainment.

This is also not even camouflaged antisemitism. These floats and wagons are made to diminish human beings to centuries-old prejudices and stereotypes and to reinforce these symbols in a time when conspiracy theories, racism and xenophobic attacks are on the rise.

This is the dirty face of uncovered and blunt antisemitism.

We urge you as the highest representative of the European Commission, to strongly condemn this public spreading of hatred and antisemitism badly disguised in a tradition of celebrating satire and happiness.

It is of utmost importance to prevent the emergence of the slightest doubt in society about the European Union's determination to defend its values of tolerance and diversity.

Let us together take action against antisemitism and take a clear stance on tolerance and diversity.

Sincerely

The Following MEPs

Alfonsi, François (MEP, Greens/EFA)  
Andresen, Rasmus (MEP, Greens/EFA)  
Ara-Kovács, Attila (MEP, S&D)  
Asimakopoulou, Anna-Michelle (MEP, EPP)  
Aubry, Manon (MEP, GUE/NGL)  
Auken, Margrete (MEP, Greens/EFA)  
Azmani, Malik (MEP, Renew)  
Bauzá, José Ramón (MEP, Renew)  
Belka, Marek (MEP, S&D)  
Berger, Dr. Stefan (MEP, EPP)  
Bijoux, Stéphane (MEP, Renew)  
Biteau, Benoît (MEP, Greens/EFA)  
Bompard, Manuel (MEP, GUE/NGL)  
Botoş, Vlad-Marius (MEP, Renew)  
Boyer, Gilles (MEP, Renew)  
Brunet, Sylvie (MEP, Renew)  
Canfin, Pascal (MEP, Renew)  
Carême, Damien (MEP, Greens/EFA)  
Chaibi, Leïla (MEP, GUE/NGL)  
Chastel, Olivier (MEP, Renew)  
Cicurel, Ilana (MEP, Renew)  
Cormand, David (MEP, Greens/EFA)  
Danti, Nicola (MEP, Renew)  
Delbos-Corfield, Gwendoline (MEP, Greens/EFA)  
Delli, Karima (MEP, Greens/EFA)  
Demirel, Özlem (MEP, GUE/NGL)  
Dobrev, Klára (MEP, S&D)  
Durand, Pascal (MEP, Renew)  
Eroglu, Engin (MEP, Renew)  
Ertug, Ismail (MEP, S&D)  
Estaràs Ferragut, Rosa (MEP, EPP)  
Farreng, Laurence (MEP, Renew)  
Geuking, Helmut (MEP, ECR)  
Glück, Andreas (MEP, Renew)  
Gozi, Sandro (MEP, Renew)  
Groothuis, Bart (MEP, Renew)  
Gruffat, Claude (MEP, Greens/EFA)  
Guetta, Bernard (MEP, Renew)  
Guillaume, Sylvie (MEP, S&D)  
Hahn, Henrike (MEP, Greens/EFA)  
Hahn, Svenja (MEP, Renew)  
Herzberger-Fofana, Dr. Pierrette (MEP, Greens/EFA)  
Huitema, Jan (MEP, Renew)  
Ijabs, Ivars (MEP, Renew)  
Jadot, Yannick (MEP, Greens/EFA)  
Karas, Othmar (MEP, EPP)  
Karlsbro, Karin (MEP, Renew)  
Keller, Fabienne (MEP, Renew)  
Kohut, Łukasz (MEP, S&D)  
Körner, Moritz (MEP, Renew)  
Köster, Prof. Dr. Dietmar (MEP, S&D)

Lagodinsky, Sergey (MEP, Greens/EFA)  
Lega, David (MEP, EPP)  
Lexmann, Miriam (MEP, EPP)  
Loiseau, Nathalie (MEP, Renew)  
López Aguilar, Juan Fernando (MEP, S&D)  
Lutgen, Benoît (MEP, EPP)  
Melchior, Karen (MEP, Renew)  
Nagtegaal, Caroline (MEP, Renew)  
Oetjen, Jan-Christoph (MEP, Renew)  
Omarjee, Younous (MEP, GUE/NGL)  
Pelletier, Anne-Sophie (MEP, GUE/NGL)  
Picierno, Pina (MEP, S&D)  
Ries, Frédérique (MEP, Renew)  
Rivasi, Michèle (MEP, Greens/EFA)  
Roose, Caroline (MEP, Greens/EFA)  
Ruissen, Bert-Jan (MEP, ECR)  
Ruiz Devesa, Domènec (MEP, S&D)  
Satouri, Mounir (MEP, Greens/EFA)  
Schieder, Andreas (MEP, S&D)  
Schreinemacher, Liesje (MEP, Renew)  
Séjourné, Stéphane (MEP, Renew)  
Tolleret, Irène (MEP, Renew)  
Toussaint, Marie (MEP, Greens/EFA)  
Van Dalen, Peter (MEP, EPP)  
Vedrenne, Marie-Pierre (MEP, Renew)  
Wiśniewska, Jadwiga (MEP, ECR)  
Yenbou, Salima (MEP, Greens/EFA)  
Yon-Courtin, Stéphanie (MEP, Renew)  
Zacharopoulou, Chrysoula (MEP, Renew)