

Antisemitism

Summary overview of the situation in the
European Union 2001-2005

Updated version December 2006

EUMC Working Paper

Foreword

Facing the historical development of antisemitism in Europe as well as its present manifestations it is not only important to closely observe the phenomena, identifying the social context which gives rise to the hatred of the perpetrators, but also to listen sensitively to the fears of Jewish communities.

The EUMC¹ provides in this paper the third brief overview on the situation in the European Union with regard to antisemitism. The overview contains the latest statistical data covering 2001 to 2005 for those EU countries that have statistics on antisemitic incidents. It addresses developments and trends on manifestations of antisemitism and antisemitic attitudes. In addition, the action taken by the EUMC together with other organisations on drafting a common working definition of antisemitism is highlighted.

From its experience in dealing with antisemitism, the EUMC wants to explicitly point to the need of joint initiatives and clear, strong measures to combat antisemitism in all its forms. We need the courage and commitment of political leaders across the EU to turn words into action, and we need new coalitions between politicians, intellectuals, journalists, teachers and many others in order to overcome hate, discrimination and exclusion. Antisemitism can and must be fought jointly to make sure that never again it gains a foothold in Europe. For all of us it must be clear: Jews and Jewish communities are highly valued and respected members of our European societies, and we must ensure that they are able to feel as such.

Beate Winkler

EUMC Director

¹ The European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) was established by Council Regulation 1035/97 (EC) in 1997 and is based in Vienna. It is an agency of the European Union. More information on: www.eumc.europa.eu

The primary objective of the EUMC is to formulate opinions and conclusions for political decision-makers, and hence to support the European Union and its Member States in taking measures or formulating courses of action on racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism. To this end, the EUMC provides them with objective, reliable and comparable data. The EUMC also studies the extent and development of the phenomena and manifestations of racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism, analyses their causes and effects and highlights examples of good practice in dealing with them.

In December 2003, EU Governments decided to extend the EUMC's mandate to a fundamental rights agency. More information can be found on the website of the European Commission: http://europa.eu.int/comm/justice_home/news/consulting_public/fundamental_rights_agency/index_en.htm

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1. Data availability, reliability and comparability

The EUMC since 2000 collects regularly all available data and information on racism and xenophobia in the EU Member States through its Racism and Xenophobia Network (RAXEN)² and has since 2002 a special focus on antisemitism. In March 2004 the EUMC presented to the European Parliament an extensive report on antisemitism in the then 15 EU Member States containing a country-by-country report on all available data and information, a detailed appraisal of the data collection mechanisms, a historical analysis, an elaboration of the conceptual debates and a working definition.³ The report was presented together with a study of the perceptions of members of Jewish communities.⁴

The aim of the EUMC's work was to document antisemitism in the European Union Member States and to stimulate a broader public debate in order to generate pressure for clear and strong measures against it. Since 2004, there have been positive developments regarding the implementation of anti-racist legislation as well as governmental and non-governmental awareness raising and educational initiatives.

The EUMC's ongoing data collection of antisemitic incidents shows that in most Member States official or even unofficial data and statistics on antisemitic incidents do not exist. Even where they do exist data is not directly comparable, since they are collected following different methodologies. For some countries, the RAXEN National Focal Points provide the EUMC with lists of cases collected either ad hoc by civil society organisations or through the media with varying validity and reliability.

The EUMC's review of data collection systems indicates also that in some Member States there seems to be a serious problem of underreporting, particularly in reference to official systems of data collection that are based on police records and on crime and law statistics because not all antisemitic incidents registered by the official institutions are categorised under the label of antisemitism and/or not all antisemitic incidents are reported to the official body by the victims or witnesses of an incident. A complementary problem to underreporting is misreporting and overreporting: This could be the case in unofficial data collection carried out by organisations that do not provide information concerning the data collection methodologies employed.

² The RAXEN network is composed of contracted consortia of organisations (research organisations, NGOs, special bodies, social partners, etc) in each Member State of the European Union that function as the EUMC's National Focal Points with the task to collect objective, reliable and comparable data on racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and related intolerances.

³ EUMC (ed.): Manifestations of Antisemitism in the EU 2002-2003, Vienna 2004.

⁴ EUMC (ed.): Perceptions of Antisemitism in the European Union, Vienna 2004.

2. Developments and Trends

Since 2000 the issue of antisemitism in Europe has increasingly moved to the centre of public attention. The question of whether a new form of antisemitism has appeared, replacing traditional antisemitism, has become a highly debated issue, and many analysts focused their attention on the connection between the crises in the Middle East and acts of anti-Jewish hostility in Europe.

In the reports by the RAXEN National Focal Points there has been some evidence to support the view that there is some link between the number of reported antisemitic incidents and the political situation in the Middle East. This could, for example, be seen in the significantly high peak of incidents in some countries during April 2002, the month in which the Israeli army controversially occupied several Palestinian towns. Such a peak has not been repeated during any subsequent month. Furthermore, some of the data indicates that there have been changes in the profile of perpetrators. It is no longer the extreme right which is seen as solely responsible for hostility towards Jewish individuals or property (or public property with a symbolic relation to the Holocaust or to Jews) – especially during the periods when registered incidents reached a peak. Instead, victims identified “young Muslims”, “people of North African origin”, or “immigrants” as perpetrators.

In the following, we shall refer to available governmental and non-governmental statistics on antisemitic incidents for the years 2001 to 2005 in order to provide an impression of trends in antisemitic incidents in Europe.

2.1. Antisemitic Incidents 2001 – 2005

The majority of Member States collect no statistical data, either official or unofficial on antisemitic incidents. In some cases the RAXEN National Focal Points report on incidents collected on an ad hoc basis by NGOs or reported by the media.

The present update contains only statistical data on antisemitic incidents, which are available for the years 2001 to 2005 for the following Member States:

- Austria (official and unofficial data)
- Belgium (official and unofficial data)
- Czech Republic (official data)
- Denmark (unofficial data)
- France (official and unofficial data)
- Germany (official data)
- Netherlands (official and unofficial data)
- Sweden (official data)
- UK (unofficial data)

AUSTRIA

In Austria, antisemitic incidents are recorded officially **only** in the context of recording crimes committed by extreme right-wing groups. The NGO “Forum gegen Antisemitismus” FGA (Forum against Antisemitism) also records incidents. Official statistics display a sharp rise in antisemitic offences in 2002 as compared to 2001, followed by a marked decrease in such offences in 2003, and another sharp increase in 2004. In significant contrast to unofficial recordings, official statistics display lower figures for incidents in 2005 than in the three previous years. Unofficial data, which generally displays a much higher rate of antisemitic incidents than the official data, which records only registered crimes, shows an increase in antisemitic incidents in 2005 after a slight decrease in 2004.

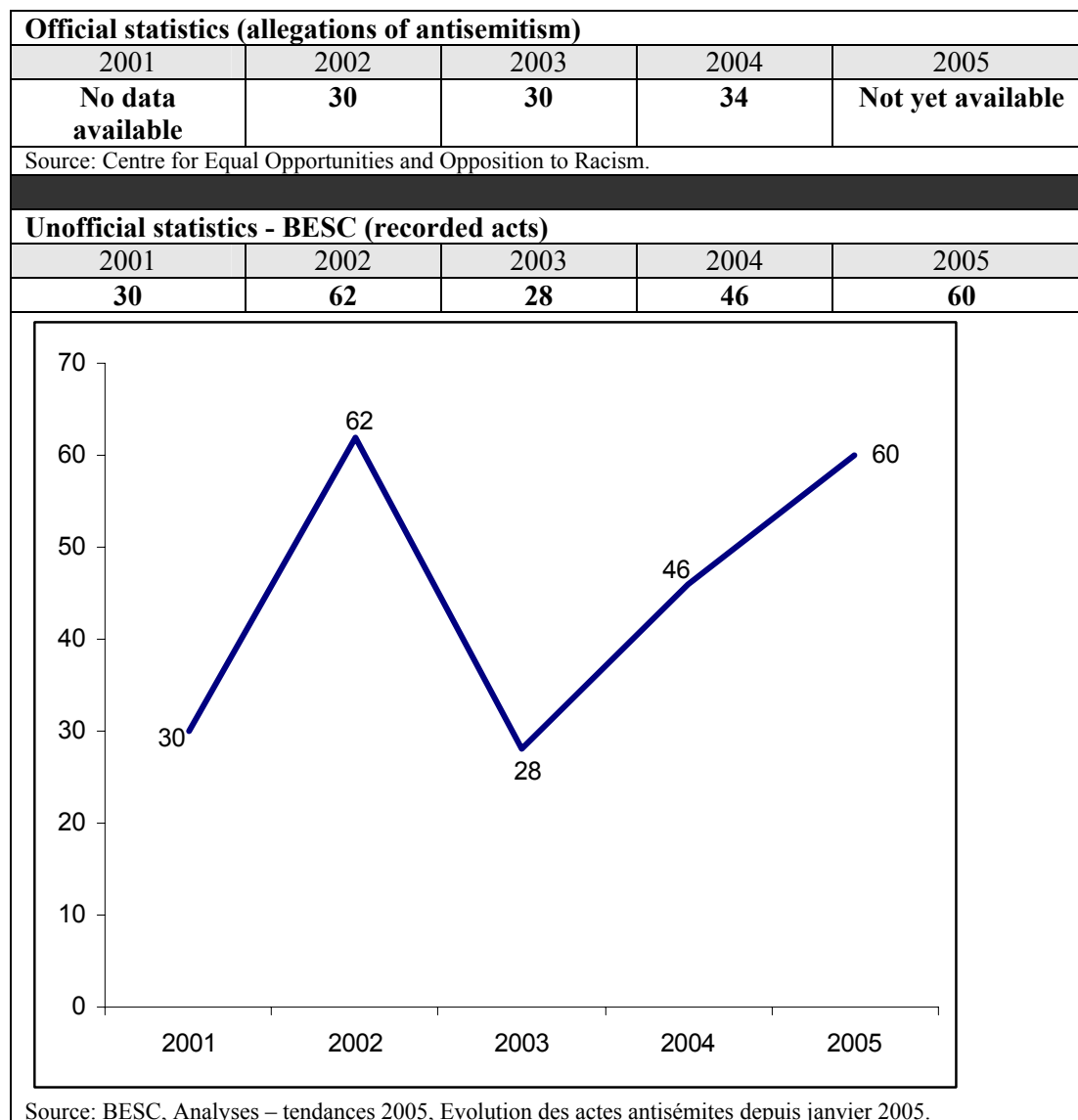
Official statistics (recorded criminal offences)				
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
3	20	9	17	8
Source: Austria, Bundesministerium für Inneres, Bundesministerium für Justiz, Sicherheitsbericht 2002-2004; Österreich, Bundesministerium für Inneres, Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz und Terrorismusbekämpfung, Verfassungsschutzbericht 2006.				
Unofficial statistics – FGA (incidents)				
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Incomplete data⁵	Incomplete data⁶	134	122	143
Source: Forum gegen Antisemitismus.				

⁵ Monitoring covers only a few months.

⁶ Monitoring covers only a few months.

BELGIUM

The Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism (CEOOR), a specialised body, collects and investigates allegations of antisemitism and compiles statistics. Police do not officially record antisemitic incidents. The NGO “Bureau Exécutif de Surveillance Communautaire” (BESC) also records incidents. Official data display a steady number of antisemitic acts for 2002 and 2003 and a slight increase in 2004. Contrary to this, unofficial statistics show a marked increase in antisemitic acts in 2002 as compared to 2001, followed by a drop in 2003, and a steady increase up to 2005.



CZECH REPUBLIC

The Czech Ministry of Interior has set up a new system of categorising various incidents and give certain codes precisely to incidents against the Jewish community, Jewish individuals, buildings and cemeteries. According to the system, in 2005 there were 23 incidents of antisemitic nature, which amounted to 9 per cent of all incidents with extremist motivation.

Official statistics (recorded criminal offences)				
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
No data available	No data available	No data available	No data available	23
Source: Czech Republic, Ministry of the Interior, The Issue of Extremism in the Czech Republic in 2005.				

DENMARK

Racist incidents are officially monitored by the Danish Security Intelligence Service (PET), which does not distinguish between antisemitic and other incidents. Unofficially, antisemitic incidents are recorded by the Jewish Community “Det Mosaiske Trossamfund” and the “Documentation and Advisory Centre on Racial Discrimination” (DACoRD).

Unofficial statistics - DACoRD				
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
No data reported	No data reported	1	6	3
Source: Documentation and Advisory Centre on Racial Discrimination.				
Unofficial statistics – Jewish Community (all incidents)				
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
No data reported	No data reported	29	37	37
Source: Det Mosaiske Trossamfund.				

FRANCE

Data are collected officially and compiled into statistics by the Ministry of Interior. The Conseil Représentatif des Institutions Juives de France (CRIF) records complaints and provides unofficial statistics. Official data shows high levels of antisemitic acts of violence and threats in 2002 and 2004 and lower rates for 2001, 2003 and 2005. However, both official and (unpublished) unofficial data point to a decrease of approximately 50 per cent in the number of antisemitic incidents between 2004 and 2005.

Official statistics (violent acts and threats)				
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
219	936	601	974	504

Year	Number of incidents
2001	219
2002	936
2003	601
2004	974
2005	504

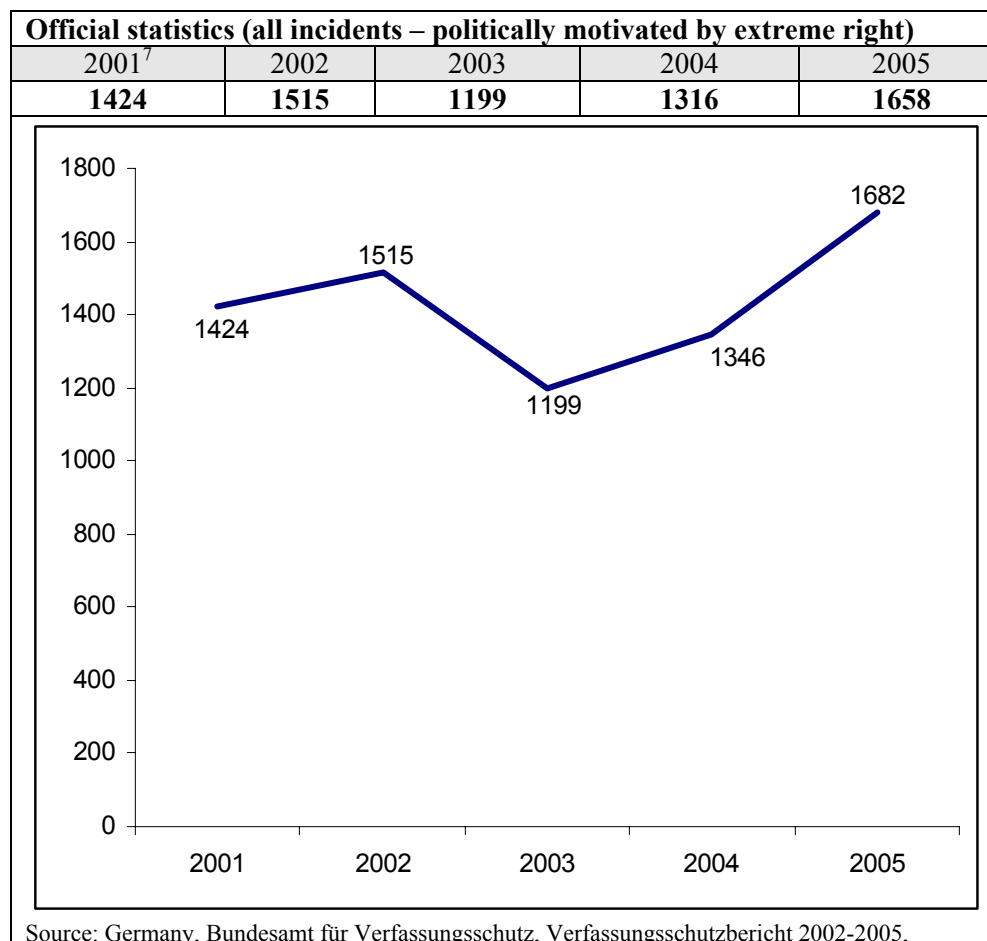
Source: France, Ministry of Home Affairs, National Commission for Human Rights

Unofficial statistics - CRIF (various incidents and registered complaints)				
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
No data available	516	503	590	Incomplete data*

* Figures for the full year 2005 are not available, although a press release from CRIF notes that the number of incidents reduced by half. In the first eight months of 2005, 218 incidents and registered complaints were recorded.
Source: CRIF, Service de Protection de la Communauté Juive

GERMANY

Data are collected officially by the “Kriminalpolizeilicher Meldedienst – Politisch Motivierte Kriminalität” (KPMD-PMK, in operation since 1 January 2001), which records **only** “right-wing politically motivated criminality with an antisemitic background”. Statistical data are provided by the “Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz”. Most of the crimes registered are non-violent crimes (e.g. 22 people were injured as a result of antisemitic crimes in 2004, when a total of 1316 crimes were recorded). German figures show a peak in recorded antisemitic incidents in 2002. The drop in 2003 was followed by a steady rise until 2005.



⁷ Due to the introduction of a new system in 2001, figures of previous years are not comparable.

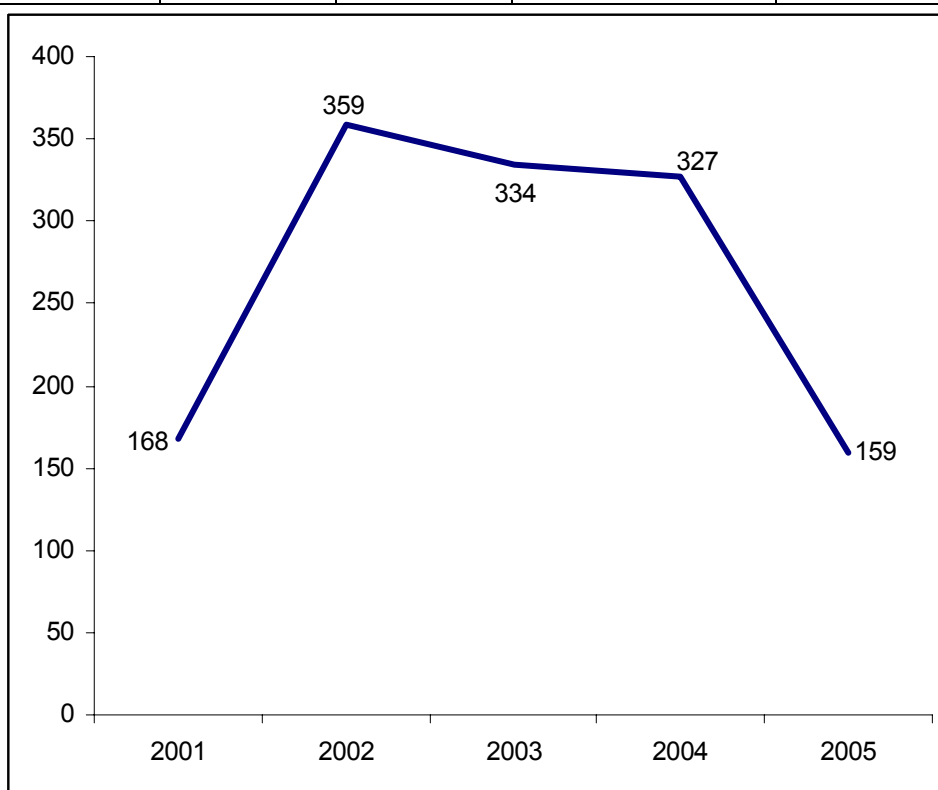
THE NETHERLANDS

Besides official data collection, the NGO “Centrum Informatie en Documentatie Israël” (CIDI) and the “National Federation of Anti-Discrimination Agencies and Hotlines” (LVADB) also collect data. Official statistics show a peak in antisemitic activities in 2002, but official data are not available for the years 2004 and 2005, so no overall trend can be discerned.

Official statistics (all incidents)				
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
41	106	89	No data available	No data available

Source: Landelijk Expertise Centrum Discriminatie (LECD).

Unofficial statistics - CIDI (all incidents)				
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
168	359	334	327	159



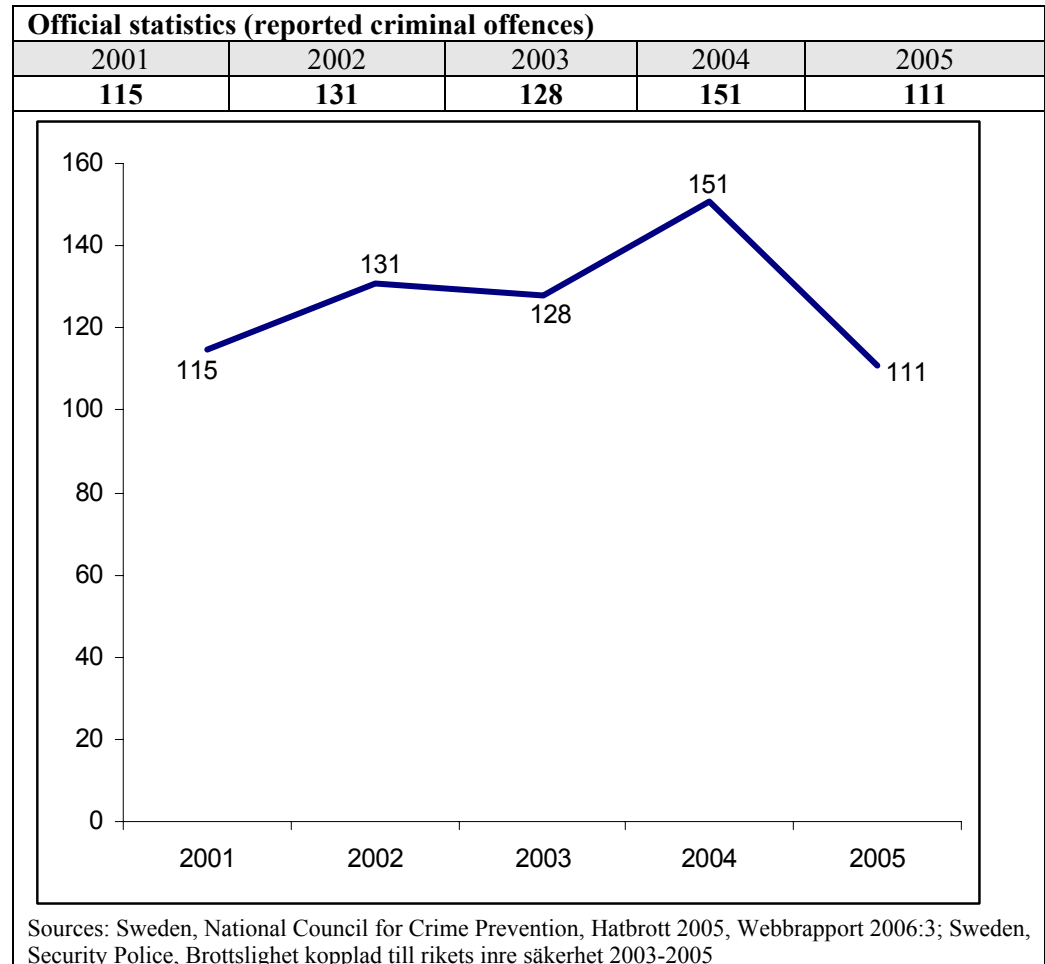
Source: CIDI, Anti-Semitic Incidents in the Netherlands, Report for 2005 and 1 January – 5 May 2006.

Unofficial statistics - LVADB (all incidents)				
2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
154	184	139	119	Not yet available

Source: LVADB, Jaaroverzicht Discriminatieklachten bij Antidiscriminatiebureaus en Meldpunten, 2004.

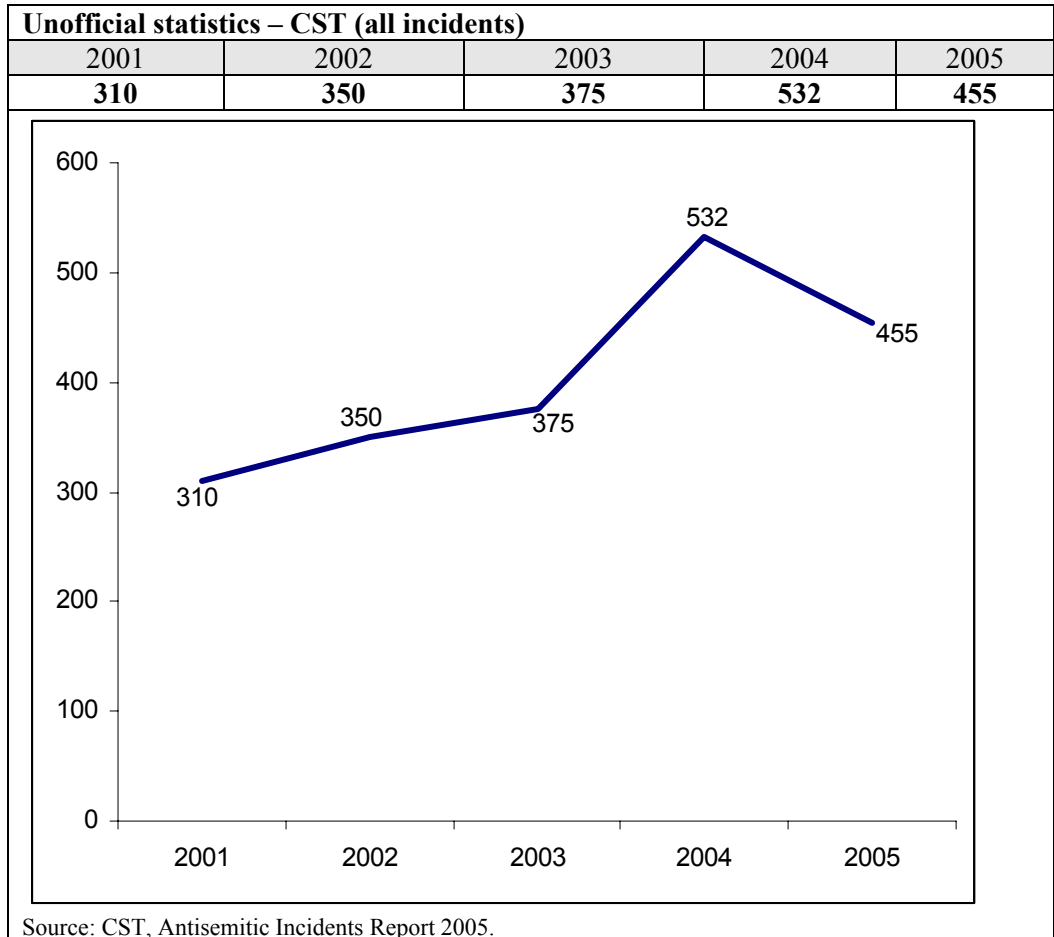
SWEDEN

The Protection of the Constitution Section (PCS) of the Swedish Security Police (Säpo) collects data on antisemitism. Around 30 per cent of all antisemitic crimes are linked to “White Power” groups. In 2004, a new data collection method was implemented by the Swedish Security Police. Therefore, caution should be used in comparing data from 2004 with that from previous years.



UNITED KINGDOM

The Community Security Trust (CST), which is part of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, collects unofficial data on antisemitic incidents in collaboration with the police. Regional police forces have also collected data since 2004. Numbers of antisemitic incidents in the UK peaked in 2004.



2.2. European Jewish Congress 2006 Report

In November 2006, the European Jewish Congress released a report on antisemitic incidents in 29 countries.⁸ The report covers mainly the period July and August 2006, i.e., the period of the war between Israel and the Hezbollah in South Lebanon. The report concludes that the number of antisemitic incidents was higher in many European countries during summer 2006 than in previous months and as compared to summer 2005. The report mentions **Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Netherlands, Sweden** and the **UK** as those Member States of the European Union where an increased number of incidents were registered by Jewish community institutions.⁹

⁸ European Jewish Congress (2006), *Anti-Semitic Incidents and Discourse in Europe During the Israel-Hezbollah War*. Paris.

⁹ European Jewish Congress (2006), *Anti-Semitic Incidents and Discourse in Europe During the Israel-Hezbollah War*. Paris, p. 5..

3. Antisemitic attitudes 2002 – 2006

Antisemitic attitudes are surveyed more or less systematically only in Germany and France. In 2006, there has, in addition, been a survey on antisemitic attitudes and perceptions in Sweden by the Forum for Living History.¹⁰ The methodologies employed in country specific studies, however, are different and the results are not comparable. The latest (2005) **transnational** survey¹¹ by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL)¹² on antisemitic attitudes covering 11 EU Member States and Switzerland was carried out by “Taylor Nelson Sofres” that conducted between 6,000 telephone interviews among the general public between 11 April and 6 May, 2005. ADL argues that according to the survey findings “a plurality of Europeans believe Jews are not loyal to their country and that they have too much power in business and finance”; which means that “despite good faith efforts by government and the international community to counteract the antisemitism plaguing Europe, millions of Europeans continue to believe the classical antisemitic canards that have dogged Jews through the centuries.”

The 2005 survey indicates that over the past year there has been some decline in the acceptance of certain traditional antisemitic stereotypes in the European countries tested. However, the opposite is true among respondents in **Denmark**, where trends actually point to an increase in the percentage of people agreeing with each of the traditional antisemitic stereotypes tested. Additionally, **Spanish** respondents are more likely to question the loyalty of their Jewish citizens than in 2004. Since 2004, there has been an increase in the percentage of **Italian** respondents who believe that Jews have too much power in the business world. The data indicates that those surveyed in **Italy** and **Spain** are now more likely to think that Jews still talk too much about what happened to them in the Holocaust. There has been a slight increase in the belief that Jews are responsible for the death of Jesus in **Austria, Belgium, Denmark and Holland**.

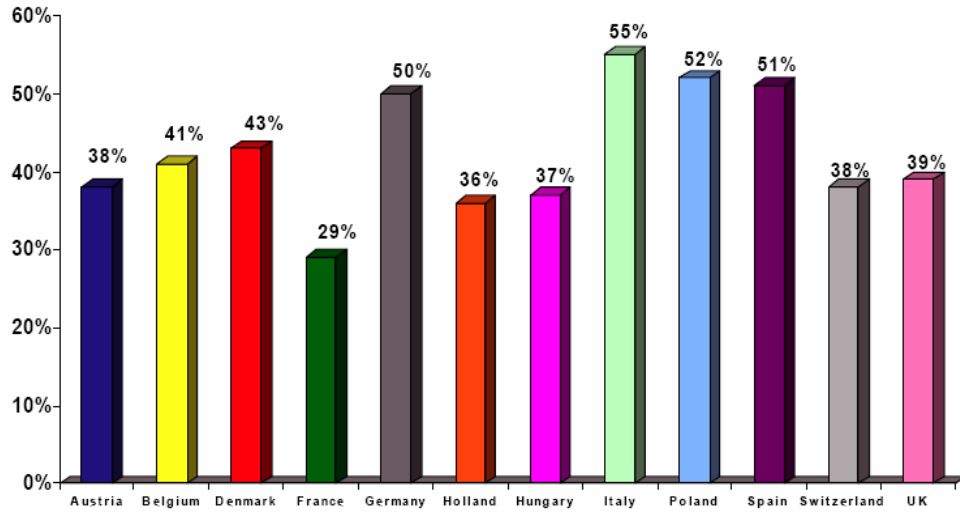
¹⁰ The Forum for Living History (2006), Antisemitiska attityder och föreställningar i Sverige (Antisemitic images and attitudes in Sweden).

¹¹ Margin of error +/-4.5% at 95% level of confidence.

¹² http://www.adl.org/anti_semitism/european_attitudes_may_2005.pdf

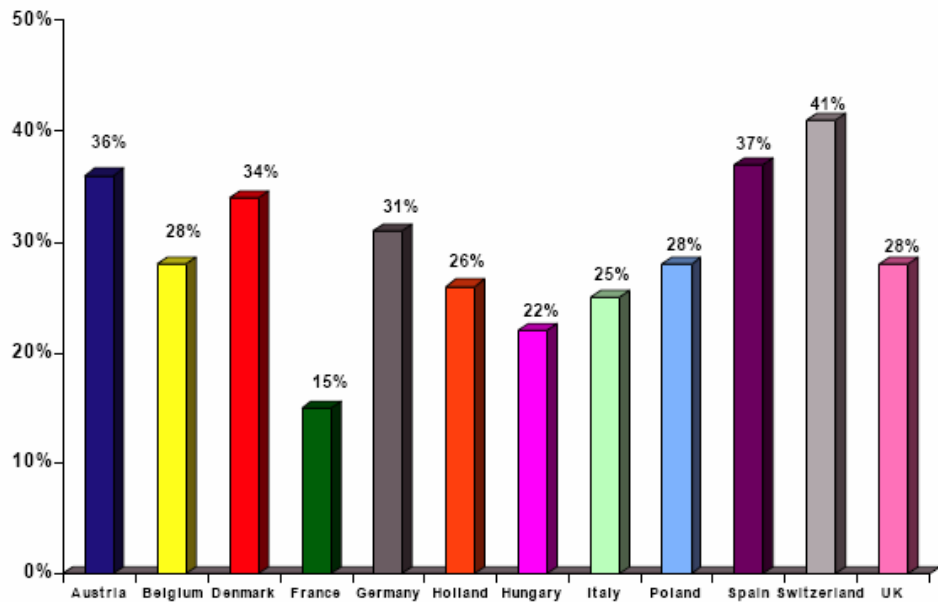
(1) Jews are more loyal to Israel than to this country.

Percent responding "probably true"

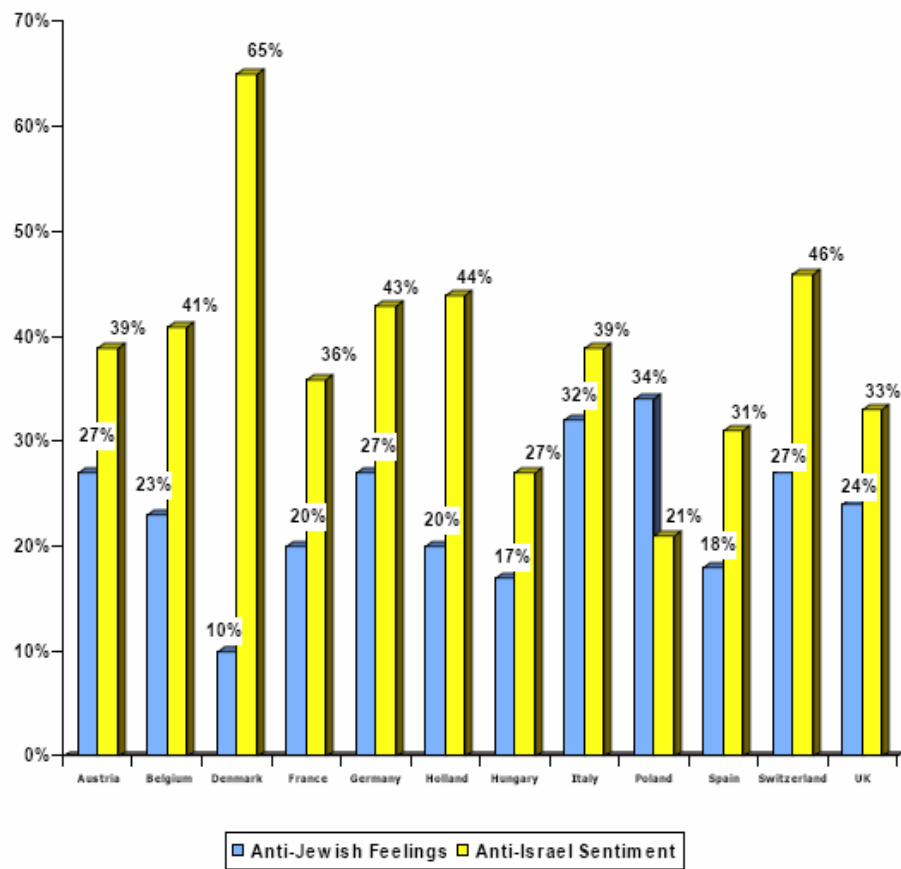


(6a) Is your opinion of Jews influenced by actions taken by the State of Israel?

Percent responding "yes"



(7) In your opinion, is the violence directed against European Jews a result of anti-Jewish feelings or a result of anti-Israel sentiment?



4. Preliminary conclusions

The available data indicate an increase in antisemitic activity between 2001 and 2002, and again between 2003 and 2004. Sufficient data are not available to calculate an overall trend in antisemitic activity in Europe for the period 2001-2005, but six countries saw an increase in the absolute number of incidents recorded (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany and the UK), with only two reporting a slight decrease in the number of incidents (the Netherlands and Sweden). Nevertheless, between 2004 and 2005 in France, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom there was a significant decrease in recorded antisemitic incidents.

As regards causes for increases and decreases, only speculative conclusions can be drawn, namely that developments in the Middle East may have an influence affecting the Arab and Muslim European communities, as well as the activities and rhetoric of the extreme and far right and to a certain extent the extreme left.

A clear distinction must be made between antisemitism in political and media discourses and concrete incidents directed against Jews. There is no systematic research so far showing the relationship between these two strands. Therefore, the motivation of perpetrators and the relationship between their acts and antisemitic attitudes and ideology remains under-researched and unclear. Further national and transnational comparative research is necessary in order to establish causal links between the formation of antisemitic attitudes and related antisemitic behavioural patterns by specific population groups.

Antisemitic activity after 2000 is increasingly attributed to a “new antisemitism”, characterised primarily by the vilification of Israel as the “Jewish collective” and perpetrated primarily by members of Europe’s Muslim population. The available studies dealing with the perception of Jews within the EU indicate that there is little evidence supporting any change in antisemitic stereotypes. However, public manifestations of antisemitism in politics, media, and everyday life, have indeed changed in recent years, especially since the start of the al-Aqsa Intifada in 2000.

4.1. Historical background

In Europe, antisemitism is a very old and deeply rooted cultural trait that has found a specific political expression since the 19th century initially in the context of the development of racist ideology and later in the context of national socialist ideology. However, in the Arab and Muslim world it is rather the political conflict with Israel that led to a development of antisemitism rather than a dominant a priori prejudice against Jews. It is therefore reasonable to assume that antisemitism in European Muslim communities is directly linked with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and especially the current crisis that began in 2000 with the collapse of the Oslo peace initiative and the outbreak of the al-Aqsa Intifada. However, there is also some research evidence that European antisemitic stereotypes have in recent decades gradually been adopted by sections of Muslim communities around the world and have to some extent acquired a presence independent of underlying national conflicts.

Major aspects of post-1945 antisemitism are the emergence of so-called secondary antisemitism and the transformation of antisemitic expressions through the

existence of Israel. Since open antisemitism, in the sense of the often self-declared antisemitism from before the Second World War, after 1945 was associated with “Auschwitz” (the main metaphor up to the 1970s for the genocide against the European Jews) and was censored, antisemitic statements had to be rephrased so as to avoid being labelled as such. The result of this transformation is that post-1945 antisemitism can be characterised as an “antisemitism without antisemites”. However, antisemitism since 1945 is not just characterised by the absence of self-labelled antisemites, but also by “secondary antisemitism”, which, broadly defined, is any form of antisemitism that is itself a reflection of the establishment of the taboo of expressing antisemitism. The notion is commonly used primarily to describe antisemitism in Austria and Germany, where secondary antisemitism is usually considered as a reaction to the debates on national identity and National Socialism. Drawing on older stereotypes about Jewish power and influence in the media, a typical claim of secondary antisemitism is, for example, that Jews are manipulating Germans or Austrians exploiting feelings of guilt. The term has proliferated in scholarly analyses particularly to explain the debates on National Socialism and antisemitism in Germany in the 1980s. Characteristic of all forms of “secondary antisemitism” is that they relate directly to the Holocaust and that they allow speakers to avoid expressing open antisemitism. Secondary antisemitism also has a psychological component. Rather than constituting a form of antisemitism that exists in spite of the history of National Socialism, it exists because of it: in the context of the German debates of the 1980s, Henryk Broder coined the aptly provocative phrase: “Germans will never forgive the Jews the existence of Auschwitz.”

The impact of left anti-Zionism to this recent wave remains unclear. Both secondary antisemitism and the use of anti-Zionism as a form of getting around the antisemitism taboo, however, are prevalent among the extreme and far right in Europe. Particularly, Holocaust denial or ‘revisionism’ has become a central part of the propagandistic repertoire of parties and organisations on the right fringe of the political spectrum throughout Europe. Although “revisionism” is not restricted to the right, it has become a central unifying feature of different right-wing extremist movements – both between the often-divided groups within one country and beyond national borders. In contrast to the extreme and far left, antisemitism forms a core element in the formation and networking of right-wing extremist groups.

4.2. Perpetrators of antisemitic acts

There are no official statistical data on perpetrators of antisemitic acts in any EU Member State. There is a commonly assumed change in the profile of the majority of perpetrators of antisemitic incidents from the extreme right to “young Muslims”, “people of North African origin”, or “immigrants” and members of the “anti-globalisation left” in countries, like Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the UK. On the basis of the available statistical evidence, however, this assumption is difficult to substantiate. One has to point here to the difficulty of verifying classifications of perpetrators that are based solely on the perceptions of victims or witnesses, and not on official records, which must rely on specific procedures for determining the identity of perpetrators. Furthermore, the available data neither record the ‘judicial path’ from arrest to prosecution and sentencing nor do they always provide information regarding the ethnic or religious background of the perpetrators.

As with other categories of data under the heading of antisemitism, there is a wide variety in the reliability and detail of information specifically on the perpetrators of antisemitic acts, and therefore in the generalisations that can safely be made about them. In the course of the rise in antisemitic incidents in Europe over the last few years, there has been a shift in the public perception of the 'typical' antisemitic offender from an 'extreme right' skinhead to a disaffected young Muslim. However, the reports by the National Focal Points (NFPs) of the EUMC network on antisemitic activities in the years 2002 and 2003 suggest a more complex picture than that.

In some countries – e.g. **France** and **Denmark** – the NFPs concluded that there is indeed evidence of a shift away from extreme right-wing perpetrators towards young Muslim males. In France the Human Rights Commission (CNCDDH) noted that the percentage of antisemitic violence attributable to the extreme right was only 9 per cent in 2002 (against 14 per cent in 2001 and 68 per cent in 1994). The CNCDDH concludes that the revival of antisemitism can be attributed to the worsening of the Israeli Palestinian conflict, notably in the spring of 2002, corresponding with the Israeli army offensive in the West Bank and the return of suicide bombings to Israel. Antisemitic acts are ascribed by the CNCDDH to youth from neighbourhoods sensitive to the conflict, principally youth of North African heritage. In Denmark, according to the NFP, the perpetrators of antisemitic acts were traditionally found amongst the groups of the so-called "Racial revolutionaries". However, for the years 2001/2002, from the reports of the Jewish Community in Denmark, victims and witnesses of antisemitic acts typically describe "young males with Arabic/Palestinian/Muslim background" as being the main perpetrators.

However, it is also possible for the available statistics to point in the other direction. In the **Netherlands** the NFP observed that the small number of ethnic minority perpetrators involved in 'racial violence' in 2002 (5%) was rather striking. Concerning antisemitic incidents in particular, only five of 60 such incidents recorded by public prosecutors in 2002 were caused by ethnic minority perpetrators. The NFP points out that although in a number of cases the perpetrators proved to be persons from Islamic circles, the idea that it is mostly certain groups of Moroccan young people who are guilty of antisemitism is not corroborated by the figures from the Dutch authorities. Analysis of the statistics shows that in 80 per cent of the cases of antisemitic violence, the perpetrator was 'white'. In several other countries the lack of reliable statistics on perpetrators means that it is more difficult to make sound conclusions.

According to one analyst quoted by the British NFP, the available data suggests that an increasing number of incidents in the **UK** were caused by Muslims or Palestinian sympathisers, and that surges of antisemitic incidents may be visible manifestations of political violence, perpetrated against British Jews in support for the Palestinians. However, the British NFP points out that, as in other areas of racist violence, there is very little reliable data on perpetrators of antisemitism, and it is difficult to come to sound conclusions. In an analysis of the 20 incidents which occurred in the first five months of 2002 in the categories "Extreme violence" and "Assault", five of the perpetrators were described as white, five as Arabs, three as Asian, and seven as unknown.

In **Austria** there is no systematic data collection on perpetrators, their backgrounds and motives with regard to antisemitic incidents. The NFP quotes a very general appraisal by the Forum against Antisemitism, according to which most of the attacks are committed by right and left-wing extremists as well as by

members of the Islamic scene. Contrary to this appraisal, information provided by governmental sources, indicates that perpetrators of antisemitic crimes predominantly stem from right-wing skinhead groups.

In **Belgium** the NFP concludes with regard to perpetrators of antisemitic acts that they are mainly found in the context of political-religious movements, who spread antisemitic ideas among groups of youngsters with Arabic-Islamic origins. Added to this, extreme right organisations are seen to exploit the tensions between Israel and the Palestinian authority in order to set both parties against each other in Belgium as well. However, the Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism (CEOOR) concludes that due to the lack of systematic data on racial violence, it is very difficult to make an analysis of the personal characteristics of victims and perpetrators, and they do not have the required information to perform such an analysis.

In **Sweden** there was evidence of incidents committed by people connected to anti-Israeli or pro-Palestine movements, and also of assailants connected to the extreme right. The NFP points out that there is a large “White Power” element in many antisemitic crimes. In Italy, from the NFP research and from cases drawn from the press, the NFP perceives that individuals and groups belonging to several formations of the far-right (generally anti-Jewish and racist; in some cases pro-Palestinian, in others anti-Muslim) constitute the most numerous and aggressive category of perpetrators of racist and anti-Jewish acts.

Finally, the NFPs for **Finland, Greece, Ireland, Luxemburg, Portugal, and Spain** report that there is no data at all on perpetrators of antisemitic acts.

Summing up, the reports of the NFPs for the years 2002-2003 have shown that in Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the UK, a varying proportion of victims of antisemitic hostility classified perpetrators to be “young Muslims”, “people of North African origin”, or “immigrants”.

5. Data collection guide and working definition

The basic premise for a valid monitoring and analysis of a phenomenon is an adequate definition; and the basic premise for comparability is the common use of such an adequate definition within the EU, as EUMC reference area. The EUMC Report on Antisemitism has shown that this is not the case today. Only very few institutions seem to work with an adequate definition of antisemitism, while the others do not make their definition explicit.

A major task of the EUMC is to work towards comparability by developing common indicators, working definitions and methodologies, which could also be used by other international organisations. It is also the task of the EUMC to develop precise and reliable working definitions for data collection in improve our understanding of such phenomena and provide a clear picture of the situation.

In this context the EUMC in close collaboration with OSCE/ODIHR and Jewish organisations discussed in 2004 and 2005 the possibility for a common approach to data collection on antisemitism leading eventually to a draft working definition. The aim would be to propose a common working definition to primary data collectors (government and civil society) at both national and international level in order to improve data comparability. Several organizations and individuals were consulted and contributed to the development of a draft working definition, such as, the European Jewish Congress, the Community Security Trust, the Consistoire of France, the Stephen Roth Center of Tel Aviv University, the Berlin Anti-Semitism Task Force, the American Jewish Committee the Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights, the Anti-Defamation League, B'nai B'rith International, the Tolerance Unit of ODIHR/OSCE, Prof. Yehuda Bauer, Academic Advisor to the International Task Force on the Holocaust, and others.

The draft guide to data collection and working definition were then further elaborated by the EUMC and forwarded to its RAXEN National Focal Points (NFPs) for further feedback in March 2005. The NFPs were asked to check with primary data collectors in their countries in order to provide the EUMC with feedback regarding the effectiveness and relevance of the working definition to their country specific situation. Most NFPs have already sent in their feedback, which is on the whole favourable, but nevertheless also contains a number of proposals for modifications that need to be examined carefully. The draft working definition, which is work in progress, is available through the homepage of the EUMC.¹³

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¹³ See: <http://eumc.europa.eu/eumc/material/pub/AS/AS-WorkingDefinition-draft.pdf>