



הכנסת
THE KNESSET

SENIOR DIPLOMATIC ADVISOR TO THE KNESSET

יועץ מדיני בכיר לכנסת

Jerusalem, 5 February 2018
20 Shevat 5778

Mr. André Gantman
Antwerp City Council
Grote Markt 1
Antwerp
Belgium

Dear Mr. Gantman,

Thank you for your letter of 23 January to the Speaker of the Knesset regarding his speech in the Belgian Federal Parliament.

As Speaker Edelstein has explained during his visit in Brussels and particularly in his speech before the parliament, he was honored to take part in the first-ever commemoration of International Holocaust Memorial Day held in the Belgian House of Representatives. His statements on that occasion were meant to highlight the significant challenges faced by Jewish communities across Europe, which are forced to defend themselves from antisemitism and terrorism, on the one hand, and attempts to deny or bury the memory of the Holocaust, on the other. In no way were they meant to cause harm, least of all to the local Jewish community, which he deeply appreciates and respects.

We are aware of Mayor De Wever's support for Israel, and we appreciate his statements and gestures on behalf of the local Jewish population. We hope that the current discussions regarding the city's Holocaust memorial result in a fitting monument that honors the memory of those who perished under Nazi rule and passes along their legacy to future generations.

Sincerely,

Shai Cohen
Senior Diplomatic Advisor to the Knesset