



**ERA** איגוד רבני אירופה  
EUPJ Rabbinic Assembly

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9 December 2020

To whom it may concern

## YAD VASHEM STATEMENT

We join with others from around the world and in Israel in expressing deep concern over the appointment of Effi Eitam as Chairman of the Executive of Yad Vashem.

We represent Reform, Liberal and Progressive communities from all over Europe, many of them still living under the shadow of the Shoah, with members who are first, second and third generation of the survivors. In Europe we live with the increasing threat of anti-semitism and other forms of racism. The need for institutions like Yad Vashem, which we greatly respect, are sadly paramount in fighting this ongoing scourge.

We acknowledge the immense contributions that Brigadier General Eitam (retired) has made to the security of the State of Israel over many years and in active service of the political and government structures. However, we know of no previous commitment to the duty of commemorating the memory of and learning from the tragedy of the Shoah. And we are disturbed by a number of statements he has made over the years that seem to be directly in opposition of the need for tolerance that is at the heart of the purpose of Yad Vashem. Some of his statements were defined by the Israel Attorney General as incitement to racism. This surely means that this proposed appointment is directly in opposition to the aims, ethos, and reputation of Yad Vashem.

We urge you to reconsider this appointment.

Rabbi Dr Rene Pfertzel  
Chair of ERA - European Rabbinic Association

Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein  
Chair of European Beit Din.

Sonja Guentner  
EUPJ Chair

Gordon Smith  
President

Leslie Bergman  
EUPJ Honorary Life President