



## NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL



## SCHIRRMACHER SPEAKS IN THE BUNDESTAG AT THE













It is important to realise the causes and mechanisms of anti-Semitism. People harbour numerous codes, images and narratives that condense into a world view and reproduce these consciously or unconsciously. Especially in difficult times, “when people are looking for simple explanations”, these are “quickly reactivated”. The Jewish community as a whole is then pilloried, and Israel also becomes a projection surface for hatred. Anti-Semitism often goes hand in hand with other forms of racism. In order to be able to talk about the Middle East conflict in Germany at all and to avoid slipping into Israel-related anti-Semitism, a deeper understanding of the context and history of the Middle East conflict as well as of anti-Semitism is needed, said Veiler.

### **Rethinking Iran policy called for**

Internationally, German foreign policy must be much more clearly directed against Iran and the “immense danger” posed by the Tehran regime, which has been responsible for numerous attacks on Jews worldwide over decades, culminating in the Hamas rocket attacks on Israel on 7 October last year. Iran is the backer of the Hamas ideology. “It wouldn’t have worked without Iran.”

“7 October should have led to a stronger reconsideration of German-Iranian relations,” said the expert. Germany was being “too nice” to Iran and instead needed tougher sanctions, up to and including breaking off relations. Otherwise, Germany would not be living up to its own claim that protecting Israel is part of the *raison d’être* of the state. “We must resolutely stand together against the dangers that jeopardise religious freedom.” (11/25.04.2024)

*Source: Press release of the Deutsche Bundestag, the German Federal Parliament*