



Editor-In-Chief, De Morgen

Brusselsesteenweg 347
1730 Kobbegem, Belgium

7 August 2019

Dear Mr Bart Eeckhout,

On behalf of the European Jewish Association, which represents hundreds of Jewish communities, **and B'nai B'rith Europe, Rabbinical Centre of Europe, Simon Wiesenthal Center, Commissioner Against Antisemitism of the Jewish Community of Berlin and Action & Protection Foundation TEV**, we are writing to express our deep concern for the blatant antisemitism in Dimitri Verhulst's column of 27 July 2019.

The article blames the whole of the Jewish people collectively, making no distinction between Israel and Jewish people who live elsewhere, and furthermore it mocks their religion and equates being a Jew with creatures with "ugly noses".

Manipulating and misquoting Serge Gainsbourg in saying "being a Jew is not a religion; there is not a single God who would give His creatures such an ugly nose" is misleading and wrong. In his article, Verhulst not only serves the stereotype of Jews' nose, propagated by Goebbels and Streicher in "Der Stürmer", he deliberately distorted the irony in Gainsbourg's quote in order to justify his own anti-Semitism.

We remind your newspaper that to blame the whole of the Jewish people collectively for real or imaginary wrongdoings committed by individuals or the State of Israel falls within the IHRA working definition of antisemitism. These are references and stereotypes that Nazis themselves use.

It is shocking that we have to point out how dangerous the demonization of Jewish people is and what it has led to here in Europe. We ask you to retract the article immediately and issue an official apology to the Jewish community and to your readers.

Yours sincerely,

Rabbi Menachem Margolin
European Jewish Association

Shimon Samuels
Simon Wiesenthal Center

Serge Dahan, President
B'nai B'rith Europe

Rabbi Binyomin Jacobs
**Rabbinical Center of Europe
& Chief Rabbi of Netherlands**

Sigmound Königsberg
**Commissioner Against
Antisemitism of Jewish
Community of Berlin**

Kálmán Szalai & Ferenc Olti
**Action and Protection
Foundation TEV Budapest**