



The European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ) had its Biennial conference in Prague (26-29 April 2018). Prior to that, more than forty Rabbis from the EUPJ Rabbinic Assembly (ERA) came together for the annual Kallah (rabbinic gathering) in the same city. Created during the EUPJ Conference in April 2016 in London, this rabbinic body includes all Progressive European Rabbis (Europe is understood in its large sense, from the Ural Mountains to the Atlantic Ocean).

ERA has no mandate to replace local and national European rabbinic assemblies that already exist and are recognised by the EUPJ. ERA's board and membership reflect the rabbinic diversity amongst the Progressive European Rabbinate that adheres to the various platforms of Progressive Judaism.

Conscious of the necessity to preserve our European diversity, ERA has four missions:

1. To express of Jewish Progressive voice in Europe, whether before the European institutions with its office in Brussels, or before the other States that are not members of the E.U. The following list is not exhaustive, but gives some areas of interest: fight against Anti-Semitism; protection of religious freedom; environmental issues, promotion of Progressive values that enable a free and open European society where every life is sacred and freedom of expression is preserved. This Jewish Progressive voice is expressed by a group of Rabbis constituted through a task force that will issue press statements if and when necessary. An EUPJ office has been opened in Brussels that advocates for Progressive Jewish values before the EU institutions.
2. Through regular meetings, the Rabbinic Kallah, ERA strives to promote exchanges between Rabbis. Each EUPJ conference is preceded by a European Kallah. Every other year, a Kallah is held in various places in Europe to continue this dialogue. In Prague, the Rabbis discussed Progressive rabbinic training in Europe, definition of Jewish identity, Progressive liturgy and creative liturgy.
3. ERA is a place where Rabbis from all the Progressive denominations can meet, discuss, share their views, and cooperate in spite of the differences.
4. To support the work of the European Beit-Din in countries where no Beit-Din is yet established.

A new board has been elected on Thursday 26 April. It includes Rabbi Dr Rene Pfertzel, a French Rabbi that serves the British Kingston Liberal Synagogue as the new chair, Rabbi Menno Ten Brink from Amsterdam as secretary, Rabbi Marc Neiger from Brussels as Treasurer; the other board members are Rabbi Colin Eimer from North London, Rabbi Pauline Bebe from Paris, Rabbi Jackie Tabick, Convenor of the European Beit-Din in London, Rabbi Ruven Bar-Ephraim from Zurich, and Rabbi Ira Goldberg from the EUPJ Office in Brussels and Rabbi of the ICJ community in the same city.

On behalf of the Board,

Rabbi Dr Rene Pfertzel, Chair, Kingston Liberal Synagogue



*From left to right Rabbi Menno Ten Brink, Rabbi Ruven Bar Ephraim, Rabbi Marc Neiger and Rabbi Rene Pfertzel*