**STATEMENT**

**The Federation of Jewish Communities of Spain (FCJE) rejects and regrets the announcement just made by the Barcelona Municipality breaking the twinning with Tel Aviv and the relations with the State of Israel.**

February 8, 2023

With the sole support of 4,000 signatures, by diktat and without debate, the Government Commission has taken this decision which represents neither in form nor in substance what Barcelona and its citizens are all about.

In the last few weeks, pressure has been growing around the Jewish communities with this campaign of the Barcelona Municipality.

The FCJE has experienced this with great concern, and we informed Mayor Ada Colau of this in an open letter dated January, the 17th.

We believe that what happens in Tel Aviv, or in Israel, can give rise to different opinions, just like in any other country or city.

Regardless of the government of the city of Tel Aviv, the Barcelona municipality has not considered that Tel Aviv is a city that is a model of coexistence, defence of freedoms, protection of minorities and where its citizens live in peace, regardless of their origin.

We are extremely concerned to see that only one city, only one country in the world is having its actions and legitimacy questioned.

Israel happens to be the only Jewish country in the world. That is why, in our view, this decision has nothing to do with politics, human rights or peace. It has a name, and it is called "sophisticated anti-Semitism".

We believe that channels should be opened to discuss the problems and not to take unilateral decisions that destroy the important work done so far between the society of Barcelona and Tel Aviv with excellent results for both.

We appeal to the citizens of Barcelona to continue working for coexistence and against anti-Semitism in whatever form it manifests itself.