I am deeply shocked by the attack that killed 11 people in a shooting in the German city of Hanau last night. This is yet another tragedy, whose xenophobic nature, if confirmed, is unacceptable in a fully democratic Europe. It is with great emotion and compassion for the victims and their families that I express our sincerest condolences and our strong solidarity with the German authorities.

The EESC firmly supports the fight against crime and terrorism and emphasises that progress in fighting terrorism and crime in the EU must be consolidated. There must be effective cooperation and coordination between Member States with regard to law enforcement, intelligence and judicial matters.

I can reassure you that I will do everything I can to contain and strongly stand against any form of hatred. Only together, we can ensure a peaceful and united Europe.