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## **The Edmond J. Safra Foundation Commits Five Million Euros to Jewish Heritage in France**

### **PHILANTHROPY**

By becoming a patron of the Jewish Heritage Program led by the Fondation du Patrimoine (*Heritage Foundation in French*), the Edmond J. Safra Foundation is strengthening its support for the French Jewish community. The consistorial synagogue of Metz, set to reopen in October 2025, is the first to receive financial assistance.

Thanks to an exceptional endowment of five million euros granted by the Edmond J. Safra Foundation, the Fondation du Patrimoine has, for the first time, launched a program specifically dedicated to preserving Jewish heritage in France. This unprecedented initiative aims to fund projects to safeguard sites or objects emblematic of Jewish history and culture in France. The first heritage building to benefit from the program is the consistorial synagogue of Metz. Undergoing renovations for the past two years, it will receive €150,000 in financial aid and will reopen to worshippers and the public on October 26.

*“This partnership between the Edmond J. Safra Foundation and the Fondation du Patrimoine is particularly dear to us because it continues the vision and commitment of Edmond J. Safra, carried on by Mrs. Lily Safra through the Foundation. Preserving the memory and beauty of these places means honoring the history, culture, and resilience of French Jewish communities,”* said one of the Foundation's representatives. It also serves as a reminder of their long-standing presence and helps to bring visibility to a discreet, yet foundational, part of French history.

### **“The Foundation has always supported French Judaism in the fields of education and religious life”**

While the Fondation du Patrimoine has long worked on restoring religious buildings, this private sponsorship now enables it to significantly expand its reach and operate at a faster pace with regard to Jewish heritage. Eligible projects include *“movable or immovable property representative of Jewish history and culture, large-scale projects led by public, nonprofit, or private entities, and restoration efforts whether already underway or not.”* The deadline for applications in the first round of project selection is set for early September 2025.

The Edmond J. Safra Foundation has consistently supported French Judaism in the areas of education, culture, and religious life. Notable examples include the Shoah Memorial in Paris—home to the Edmond J. Safra Auditorium and educational institute—the European Center for Judaism, whose synagogue bears the name of the benefactor, and the Alliance Israélite Universelle, where the Edmond J. Safra Center now occupies the former École Normale Israélite Orientale. Regionally, the Foundation has supported the Maison Sublime in Rouen, the Maison Rachi in Troyes, and the Beit Yacov synagogue in Clermont-Ferrand.

In a different realm, the Foundation also made possible the French translation of the Babylonian Talmud (Edmond J. Safra edition) and the Edmond J. Safra Chumash. “We are committed to preserving endangered heritage from all religions and across all of France. This program will allow for broader action to protect a legacy that is too often overlooked,” said Guillaume Poitrinal, president of the Fondation du Patrimoine, in an interview with *Le Figaro*.