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Conference of European Rabbis Coverage Update 16th November 2018





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Top Russian rabbi awarded France's highest honour

Conference of European Rabbis president Pinchas Goldschmidt given the Legion of Honour in Paris ceremony

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Conference of European Rabbis president Pinchas Goldschmidt (fourth from right) receiving his Legion of Honour Award in Paris from French Foreign Affairs Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian (fifth from right)

A Swiss-born Russian rabbi who heads a Brussels-based rabbinical group has been France's highest award, the Légion d'Honneur – Legion of Honour.

Chief Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, president of the Conference of European Rabbis, was bestowed with the award in a Paris ceremony by Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian.

Goldschmidt, who helped re-establish Soviet Jewry after the fall of the Berlin Wall, said he was "honoured" to receive the award, which was established by Napoleon 216 years ago, and is the highest French decoration for military and civil servicemen.

He paid tribute to France's Jewish community, by far the largest in Europe, adding: "We will continue our work for religious minorities in order that we should build a Europe free from hate that respects our freedom and right to practice our faith."





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PARIS

President of the Conference Of European Rabbis Receives Légion d'Honneur

Chief Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, President of the Conference of European Rabbis, has received France's highest award, the Légion d'Honneur (Legion of Honour). At a ceremony in Paris, Mr. Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, presented the award to Rabbi Goldschmidt in recognition of his contribution to European society.

Established in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte, the National Order of the Legion of Honour is the highest French decoration for military and civil servicemen.

Reflecting on his award, Chief Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt said, "I am honoured to have received this award, which only strengthens my resolve to continue to serve European Jewry. The French Jewish community is Europe's largest and one of its most significant. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to its Chief Rabbi, Chaim Korsia, and our Vice President Mosche Lewin, who have served French Jewry with distinction. We will continue our work for religious minorities in order that we should build a Europe free from hate that respects our freedom and right to practice our faith."

Since its establishment in the 19th century, the award has been retained by all governmental systems in France and awarded to individuals who have demonstrated unique service to the country.

