MEETING WITH THE ISRAEL-EU CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

8 January 2026 (13h00-14h00) - Venue: your office

OBJECTIVES

- Touch-base/courtesy meeting
- Inform of latest state of play on the EU package of sanctions against Israel (also with reference to the Chamber's letter of 30 July 2025 and the press article by the Chamber' President published on 20 November 2025, see attached)
- Provide an overview of our main areas of activities (co-operation projects with an economic interest; science&innovation)
- Inquire about their organisation, programme of activities and upcoming events

SCENE SETTER

- The Israel-EU Chamber of Commerce and Industry is a 'Chamber of Chambers': only EUMS bilateral chambers are members (AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, EL, ES, FR, HU, IE, IT, LT, MT, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK) and not corporates, but it also includes non-EU bilateral chambers (UK and Moldova).
- The Chamber's delegation will be headed by its Chairman, **Mr Roni Bornstein**, an Israeli businessman involved in imports of products also from the EU. [redacted]
- The Chamber intends to present the current situation regarding the economic relations between the business sector in Israel and Europe, and highlight the difficulties currently experienced by many Israeli companies that are interested in doing business and developing relationships in Europe, following the public criticism directed against the Israeli government and the situation over the past two years. [redacted]
- On 30 July 2025 the Chamber sent a letter to the highest echelons of the EU institutions (Kallas, Costa, von der Leyen, Metsola and Danish Presidency - see attached) expressing concerns about the possible suspension of the Association Agreement. [redacted]
- You should inform them of the content and latest state of play concerning the package of measures on the table against Israel. You should then ask EUDEL colleagues present to

review their areas of activities with direct bearing on economic interest of the Chamber (co-operation projects, Horizon Europe, trade/investment/energy/transport).

- [redacted]

LTT/KEY MESSAGES

- Welcome and remind how important is the presence and activities of an EU Chamber in the country where the EU is an important economic partner.
- DELTA very keen to work together with the EU Chambers to promote EU economic interests and foster prosperous economic relations.
- Remind them of the complementary role that the EU Chamber should have v/s the bilateral chambers (EU Chamber = advocacy role on EU economic and policy interests, plus visibility of the EU as a whole; EUMS bilateral chambers = trade and investment promotion).
- Invite them to present the organisation, its background and their feelings on the current EU-IL business relations. [redacted]
- Inform them of the exact scope of the package of sanctions currently on the table and the state of play.

[redacted]

- Invite DELTA participants to give a brief overview of initiatives/actions that can be of interest to EU business:
  - [redacted] Co-operation projects (TAIEX/Twinning – explain what it is and mention those on hold with an impact on business; Pact for the Mediterranean, economic integration)
  - [redacted] Trade (work to make public procurement more transparent; efforts to open the oligopolistic structure of importers/retailers in Israel specifically on agri-food products)

- [redacted] Energy (potential for IL exports to the EU of natural gas)
- Horizon Europe [redacted]
  - Israel is an Associated Country to the European Union's Horizon Europe R&I framework program, which allows Israeli industries to participate in most calls for proposals on equal terms with EU Member States.
  - Participation in Horizon Europe enables Israeli companies to access the European market, find international partners, strengthen their R&D quality, and expand their operations globally.
  - Israeli industry has a strong history of participation and success in the EU's R&I programs, excelling in areas such as ICT, health, advanced manufacturing, food, and biotechnology.
  - In July 2025, the European Commission proposed to partially suspend the participation of Israeli entities in the EIC Accelerator program. This is a targeted measure in response to the humanitarian situation in Gaza and does not affect other parts of Horizon Europe, such as collaborative research projects (Pillar II) or grants for individual researchers. The suspension specifically targets the EIC Accelerator's mixed grant and equity investments for start-ups and SMEs with potential dual-use applications (e.g., cybersecurity, AI, drones). The proposal requires a qualified majority vote in the Council of the EU to be adopted.
  - In the previous program, Horizon 2020, 34% of Israeli participants were from industry, with companies securing over €180 million in EIC program grants alone. Under Horizon Europe (2021-2024), Israeli companies secured €228 million in funding, with an additional more than €200 million specifically from the EIC Accelerator program before the proposed suspension.

- Inquire about programme of activities of the EU Chamber in the coming months.