

LEADERSHIP BRIEFING

SUMMER 2017

The **Friends of European Leadership Network (FELNET)** are very proud to present in detail the most recent accomplishments of ELNET affiliates in Europe. These successes are made possible in large part by generous and strategic minded contributors in the US as well as those overseas. This Leadership Briefing is divided into sections which include updates from:

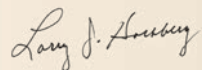
1. ELNET – EU & NATO
2. ELNET – France
3. ELNET – Germany
4. ELNET – Poland
5. Forum of Strategic Dialogue

The FELNET Board of Directors also welcomes new members Messrs. John Fishel and David Jonas. They will add strength to our already committed group. ELNET's pro-Israel

advocacy is making an impact in Europe every day. Due to the threat of terror and the internal stress created by voluminous migration across Europe, the time is ripe for recognizing the value of close relations between Europe and Israel. There is no question that with additional funding much more can be accomplished with increased resources.

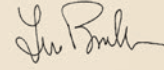
You may support this critical work by making a donation using the enclosed pledge card, online at www.elnetwork.eu, or by mailing a check to the address on the back page.

With our gratitude and best wishes,



Larry J. Hochberg

FELNET Chairman & Co-Founder



Lee Rosenblum

FELNET National Executive Director



ELNET – EU & NATO

The goal of the ELNET EU & NATO Office in Brussels is to strengthen the political relations between Israel and the EU, as well as with NATO. Our activities **focus on the EU/NATO and Israel's mutual strategic interests**, and contribute to help redefine and strengthen the EU-Israel relationship with a view to achieving common goals in Brussels. A raised awareness towards common challenges and shared interests will lead to stronger bonds and trust between the EU/NATO and Israel and will make it easier to address handling risks that currently threaten Israel.

Over the last year ELNET has built relations with a variety of senior political leaders, EU experts and advisors, top officials, leading journalists, academics, and policy think tanks in Brussels. Specifically, ELNET EU & NATO focused on relevant players who have significant influence with regard to EU-Israel relations, focusing its efforts on the

European Commission, the European External Action Service, the European Parliament, and the European Council, as the majority of policies and initiatives regarding Israel are prepared, coordinated and decided by the EU Institutions. The Executive Director has emphasized and developed a very close relationship with NATO, which enables us to organize a major NATO-Israel Conference in the second half 2017.

Our team has also been monitoring important developments in Brussels that had major consequences for Israel and our work (various resolutions in the Parliament, committee meetings or working groups in the Council related to the Middle East, the Foreign Affairs Councils, high level visits from Israel to the European Union and vice versa), as well as important topics for EU-Israel cooperation (such as the political dialogue, the counter terrorism dialogue between the EU and Israel, cyber security, the European Neighborhood Policy among others) and has moved its advocacy work to the next level by actively influencing current resolutions impacting Israel.



MK Ohana at the European Parliament

In April 2017, ELNET EU hosted Member of Knesset Amir Ohana for a meeting in the European Parliament and for a dinner roundtable in Brussels. The visit provided the perfect occasion to reach out to a high level European crowd combining both a public event, and a private dinner with high level senior officials from the EU, NATO and the Embassies in town.

MK Ohana (Likud) is a member of Israel's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. He entered politics in 2015 and had held several positions within the IDF and the Shin Bet beforehand. Due to his professional background, MK Ohana has a deep understanding of intelligence and the fight against terror in Israel and was an ideal candidate to discuss aspects of countering terrorism with Brussels counterparts. MK Ohana gave a speech at the European Parliament on the topic

Fighting Counter-Terrorism — The Israeli Experience in front of a full plenary and consisting mostly of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and their political advisors coming from various political backgrounds. The speech was much appreciated and offered a first-hand insight of the Israeli experience in fighting terrorism and what Europe can learn from Israel.

Events like these contribute to and strengthen the relationship ELNET EU & NATO has built with various MEPs over the last year and reinforces our visibility on the ground. For our political work, these events and relationships are a catalyst for our day-to-day work on EU-resolutions and contribute to our ability to be expert on issues related to terrorism, the Middle East and Israel.

Countering Terrorism: Israeli and European Perspectives

ELNET-EU & NATO also hosted a private dinner roundtable with MK Ohana on the theme *Countering Terrorism: Israeli and European Perspectives* together with the German Marshall Fund (GMF) of the U.S. Speakers from Brussels included Dr. Peter Spoor, Advisor to the European Counter-terrorism Coordinator Gilles de Kerchove, and Dr. Jamie Shea, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Emerging Security Challenges in NATO with us on that evening.

The dinner was attended by 26 top level participants from NATO, the European External Action Service, the European Council, the European Commission and the European Parliament, as well as the US and the Canadian Mission to the EU. The GMF and ELNET EU invited a few select journalists representing CNN and Handelsblatt to cover the event.

The high-level participation exemplified how important the exchanges between EU/NATO and Israeli counterparts are today, especially on topics of shared interests. The dinner was welcomed by all participants and it helped to clarify

our strategic outlook for 2017 in the field of countering terrorism and to solidify where we aim to achieve higher visibility as an organization of expertise in Brussels.



"New Dynamics in the Middle East" hosting Gideon Saar, former Israeli Interior Minister

New Dynamics in the Middle East

ELNET EU & NATO participated in the Brussels Forum 2017, one of the most important international annual events in Brussels. The conversations this year addressed important topics such as security and defense, foreign affairs and geopolitical challenges, and offered a platform for senior policy leaders to discuss the most pressing policy challenges on the transatlantic agenda.

ELNET EU & NATO organized a dinner roundtable on the topic "New Dynamics in the Middle East," featuring Gideon Saar, former Israeli Interior Minister and a potential candidate to replace Benjamin Netanyahu. Other speakers included Mrs. Sylke Tempel, Editor-in-Chief at *Internationale Politik*, and Derek Chollet, Executive Vice President of the German Marshall Fund of the United States. From 2012-15, Mr. Chollet was the U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, where he managed U.S. defense policy towards Europe (including NATO), the Middle East, and Africa. The discussion was led by Marc Otte, Executive Director of the Egmont Institute and former Special Representative of the EU to the Middle East Peace Process.

The dinner was officially hosted by the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the

Egmont Palace. The ELNET dinner was so overwhelmingly in demand that more people wanted to attend than the space allowed, so the GMF had to shorten the invitee list. Nevertheless, the participant list reflected an engagement of high level senior officials coming from the EU institutions, NATO, the US and the private sector. The high demand for our dinner during the Brussels Forum is a testament to the great success of our work on the ground, as well as for the topic and speakers chosen.



ELNET-EU& NATO has invested considerable energy, resources and time over the past year to build the necessary relations with local key players in the EU and NATO, which is essential for our advocacy work. This work now bears fruits as we are able to get access to information, people and decisions in the making, which are key to our day to day work. Being at the forefront of EU resolutions and EU/NATO policy making that have impact on Israel is our most important objective in Brussels. Experts now turn to ELNET for our expertise in key areas of common concern and for our well-established access to Israeli counterparts thanks to our network in Europe, Israel and beyond.

**FRANCE**

Arie Bensamhoun
ELNET-France, Executive Director

Within a few months, the political situation has deeply changed in France with the election of Emmanuel Macron, who won 66.1% of the votes over Marine Le Pen's 33.9%. At only 39 years old, he is the youngest president in the history of the fifth Republic. Macron served as Minister of Economy for two and half years. It's been only one year since he created his movement, En Marche! He positioned it above the traditional right-left cleavage in order to bring together "progressives of all sides." He benefited from a combination of circumstances which helped him in his quest for power, and by his very pro-European posture, he has reassured the electorate. He has also been able to coalesce a part of the French people, seduced by his optimism, personal success and faith in the future of a country able to find its place in a "happy globalization."

For the first quarter of the year, ELNET-France was dedicated to the presidential campaign and, more recently, to the legislatives, and the reinforcement of partnerships between France and Israel.

**Meeting with Manuel Valls, January 10**

A few days before the Socialist Party primaries, ELNET organized a 6th political meeting with Manuel Valls (following those with Alain Juppé, Nicolas Sarkozy, Bruno Le Maire, Jean-François Copé, and Emmanuel Macron), as part of preparations for the presidential elections. On this occasion, the former Prime Minister presented his program and ambitions,

and answered questions from the audience. He spoke about the relations between France and Israel. He said that the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict could be the result of a comprehensive solution including the moderate Sunni Arab states in the region.

This kind of event enables ELNET-France to build a strong relationship with political leaders and to ask them very specific questions on the topics that matter to us.

Strategic Dialogue France – Israel, February 27-28

The 7th France-Israel Strategic Dialogue (FSD) took place at a time when France was headed towards its most unpredictable presidential election, all the while with a "Trump cloud" looming over all discussions. The Dialogue assessed the evolving roles of the US and Russia and whether we are heading towards a new international order, Iran and Saudi Arabia policies and their effects in the region, as well as jihadist threats and perspectives. The Dialogue also dealt with the evolving situation on the Syrian front and in Lebanon, analyzed possible developments of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and evaluated the involvement of China in the Middle East.

ELNET and the Forum of Strategic Dialogue (FSD) organized the dialogue with our longstanding partners Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique (FRS) and Institute for National Security Studies (INSS), with the endorsement of French Ministry of Defense (DGRIS). The INSS hosted the event at their office in Tel Aviv February 27-28, and France's Ambassador to Israel hosted all the participants for a dinner at her residence, with a keynote address by Maj. Gen. (ret.) Amos Gilead who just retired from his long-standing position of Director of Policy and Political-Military Affairs of Israel's Ministry of Defense. For their welcoming dinner, the French delegation had the opportunity to engage MK Elie Elalouf, Chair, Israel-France parliamentary friendship group.

Yoram Cohen in Brussels, March 21-22

At the beginning of the year, a Belgian parliamentary group went to Israel for a mission on the fight against terrorism and they met Yoram Cohen, former chief of Shin Bet, whom they invited to come to Belgium.

Mr. Cohen stayed in Brussels for two days, during which ELNET-France organized political meetings with Members of Parliament. Among them, Arnaud Danjean, Philippe Pivin, Jean-Jacques Flahaux, Jacques Brotchi, Viviane Teitelbaum, and others. He spent an evening with leaders of the Jewish community, including, Vico Levy, Joel Rubinstein, Evelyne Shapiro, Efraim Fisgrout, Michel Kandiyoti; Raya Kaloneva, Executive Vice President of the European Jewish Congress and Roby Spiegel.

Mr. Cohen had a discussion with Gaëlle Smet, Advisor to the Mouvement Réformateur (MR) party for security matters at the Federal Parliament and the European Parliament and Samy Sidis, special advisor to the MR regarding terror in Belgium, and Frederique Ries, European Parliament Member and Deputy Mayor of Bruxelles.

A delegation will come to Paris within a few months to continue discussions on security issues and the fight against terrorism.



Arnaud Danjean and Yoram Cohen

The Safe and Smart City 2017 Conference – March 22-23, 2017

The Safe and Smart City 2017 Conference represented the reinforcement of the strategic cooperation between France's regions and Israel. The first such conference was held in 2015 in Tel Aviv.



The Safe & Smart City 2017 Conference gathered key experts and influencers from the French and Israeli business and political scenes on the theme of "New Safety and Security Challenges for Smart Cities." The conference addressed the security of sensitive infrastructures and intelligent systems in connected cities. The initiative is based on the bilateral relationship between France and Israel and on the innovative ecosystems of the region Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and of Tel Aviv. ELNET-France handled the political and diplomatic aspects of inviting Israelis to France, and of course the French participants, including: Christian Estrosi, former President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region, Caroline Pozmentier, Deputy Mayor of Marseille and Vice-President of the PACA Region, Dr. Anat Berko, Knesset member and world expert on terrorism, Nathalie Goulet, Senator, Frédéric Pechenard, Vice-President of Ile-de-France in charge of security, Ronit Ben Dor, Counselor for Political Affairs of the Embassy of Israel, Roni Tidhar, in charge of the Security of Ben Gurion airport and Orit Perlov, INSS specialist of radicalization on social networks.

The next meeting of the Safe and Smart City Conference will be held in 2018 in Israel. Topics for the agenda will be based on the recommendations and conclusions of the work of 2017. The conference is a major step forward in the dialogue on innovation between France and Israel to improve and secure the cities of tomorrow. Safe and Smart City has the ambition to become a national, European and international resource where smart cities can be designed.



GERMANY

Daniele Nati, ELNET-Germany,
Executive Director

Ahead of the German general elections in September it seemed that the rival of incumbent chancellor Angela Merkel, Christian Democratic Union (CDU), Martin Schulz of the Social Democratic Party (SPD) could become a serious threat. However, the gap between the two major parties, CDU and SPD began to widen again. Still, the election is open.

Three regional elections were all lost by the SPD in 2017, surprisingly also in traditionally more Leftist regions with a Leftist head of government, such as North Rhine-Westphalia and Schleswig-Holstein.

The relationship between Germany and Israel suffered recently when the first visit of GER Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sigmar Gabriel (SPD) turned into a fight with ISR Minister of Foreign Affairs (and MP) Benjamin Netanyahu over a meeting with far-Left NGOs in Israel. The later inaugural visit of the new German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier (SPD), only partially softened the tone. Generally speaking, the criticism towards Israel is increasing as the older generations of politicians are replaced by new statesmen who are much more critical of Israel. It is clear that ELNET's work is needed more than ever in Germany.

Effective August 1, 2017, Israel will have a new ambassador to Germany, Jeremy Issacharoff, whom ELNET already knows well.

Ensuring the presence of Israel reference in party programs for general elections

Party programs are mandatory for political parties participating in federal elections in Germany. They provide electors with an idea of the party platform to let them make the "right" choice. The party programs are the basis for the coalition treaty among the winners of elections. Hence, what is written in the programs will be used later as the very agenda of the newly formed government. Finally, it binds the party to the items specified in the party program, in our case to the commitment to Israel.

Very early in the process, ELNET took responsibility for reaching out to parties including CDU, SPD and Free Democratic Party (FDP). ELNET conducted several talks with relevant politicians within the parties to explain the importance of having Israel in the party program and supported motions to have pro-Israel amendments in the party programs. ELNET participated at several party congresses where the programs were debated and finalized.

The programs of CDU, SPD, FDP and the Greens will all contain a reference to Israel. All of this is embedded in ELNET's political work for the federal elections: ELNET is contacting people in key states who will become members of the German Bundestag in September and linking them to us and to Israel.

Visit of MK Amir Ohana to Berlin

On his two-day visit, MK Amir Ohana met with various politicians and professionals, as well as journalists, in Berlin. Following ELNET-Germany's strategy to broaden the spectrum of German-Israeli topics, we were able to approach new contacts to broaden our political network. Besides one-on-one meetings, MK Ohana was the keynote speaker at ELNET-Germany's annual Yom Ha'atzmaut event on German-Israeli relations and current foreign and security policy issues. Alexandra Rojkov, a young and ambitious journalist and expert on the Middle East and Israel moderated the talk. This event on April 25 attracted more than 100 guests including more than 10 parliamentarians from different parties of the German Bundestag, among them MP Stephan Mayer, spokesperson for interior politics of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group, MP Volker Beck, speaker for migration as well as religious politics of Alliance 90/The Greens and head of the German-Israeli Parliamentary Friendship Group, MP Michaela Engelmeier, board member of the SPD since 2009 and deputy head of the German-Israeli Parliamentary Friendship group as well as MP Saskia Esken, also member of the SPD and deputy spokesperson on digital agenda in the SPD parliamentary group. Further, ELNET attracted guests from the ministries, including Dr. Rudolf Gridl, Head of Division North Africa, Near and Middle East in the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy. From the Embassy of the State of Israel, ELNET welcomed Yair Even, Political Attaché of the Embassy of Israel, and Adi Farjon Israel, Press Spokesperson of the embassy. Additionally, other political professionals, e.g. political advisors to the parties and committees as well as other German-Israeli organizations, business representatives and potential donors were present. During the event, MK Ohana conducted an interview with Johannes Bockenheimer from the major Berlin daily newspaper Der Tagesspiegel.

In addition to the evening event, MK Ohana met with Amb. Dr. Philipp Ackermann, regional director for the Near and Middle East and the Maghreb in the Federal Foreign Office, Dr. Hans-Peter Bartels, Parliamentary Commissioner for the Armed Forces, MP Thomas Hitschler (SPD), member of the Defence Committee, MP Ansgar Heveling (CDU), chairman of the Committee on Internal Affairs in the German Bundestag and MP Matern von Marshall (CDU), member of the committee for European Affairs and the Committee on Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety. Some of the topics discussed were the security situation in the Middle East, including Syria, internal Israeli politics, German-Israeli relations, and the cooperation of the intelligence services. The talks have also been influenced by the debate over Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel's visit to Israel and his persistence to meet with representatives from the NGOs "Breaking the silence" and "B'Tselem." Minister Gabriel's persistence resulted in the cancelation of the scheduled meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

In a meeting with more than 20 members of the Parliamentary Staffers Association on Foreign and Security Politics and the German-Israeli Staffers Association of the German Bundestag, MK Ohana spoke on the topic: "What can Europe learn from Israel's Counter-Terrorism Policy?"

The visit ended with a press dinner entitled "2017: a challenge for the two-state solution?" The dinner was attended by more than 10 journalists from the German public broadcaster ARD/RBB, Al Jazeera, Berliner Zeitung, BBC and others. They discussed the various options on the conflict and views within Israeli society.

Throughout this visit, ELNET-Germany was able to broaden its political network and deepen already existing relationships, e.g. with young professionals who have the potential to become leaders in Germany, and with the Staffers

Association on Foreign and Security Politics of the German Bundestag.



Delegation of FC Bundestag to play soccer against Knesset members

In June 2017, ELNET-Germany hosted a unique delegation to Israel, which was also an historic event. Celebrating the 30th anniversary of the first soccer match between Germany and Israel in 1987, ELNET invited the soccer team of the German Bundestag (Football Club Bundestag, FC Bundestag) to play against the Knesset. The preparation of this event took almost one year due to the complexity and amount of people involved. It was the very first soccer match of the FC Bundestag against the Knesset team in 50 years of the team's history.

Besides expanding the existing network, ELNET strengthened its relationship with German and Israeli parliamentarians. ELNET built up a working relationship with FC Bayern Munich: one of the biggest sports companies in Germany. FC Bayern Munich supported the ELNET delegation with in-kind donations.

ELNET-Germany successfully organized the first football match ever between the FC Bundestag and the Knesset. Many organizations previously tried to initiate such an event, but failed. ELNET-Germany had press at the event, which led to a series of articles, radio interview and TV features, many of which mentioned ELNET. The official press releases of both the FC Bundestag and the Knesset mentioned ELNET as well.

After the difficulties and friction between Germany and Israel following the

Gabriel-Netanyahu incident mentioned above, ELNET was able to revitalize the friendship between the two nations. A new level of friendship between the Knesset and FC Bundestag has been established.

Both the FC Bundestag and the Knesset agreed to do whatever possible to organize a rematch in Berlin in 2018, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the State of Israel. ELNET has already been approached to work on the rematch, reinforcing the trust and reputation ELNET has gained.



Delegation of Interior Committee

The high-ranking political delegation from the German parliament visited Israel with ELNET in June 2017. The delegation, headed by Ansgar Heveling MdB, Chair of the Committee of Internal Affairs of the German Bundestag, consisted of seven members of the German Parliament including e.g. Dr. Stephan Harbarth MdB, Deputy Chairman of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU). The delegation participants were not only able to exchange their in-depth and profound knowledge regarding internal security issues, such as cyber security and counter terrorism but also pursue their personal interest in learning more about Israel in general.



POLAND

Jacek Olejnik
ELNET-Poland, Executive Director

Polish assistance in bringing down anti-Israeli motion at FIFA

The Israeli Embassy in Warsaw confirmed that Poland played an important role in the prevention of a Palestinian initiative aimed against Israel at the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA). Thanks in part to the work of ELNET-Poland, the vote on the initiative, which targeted soccer teams from the Israeli settlements, was delayed until March 2018 after FIFA's congress voted to accept Gianni Infantino's proposal for the delay.

ELNET-Poland selected Infantino last Spring as one of our Key Contacts at the parliament and government, and invested much time in making him a solid Friend of Israel. Further, since Summer 2016, ELNET-Poland also worked with Poland's Deputy Minister of Sports, Mr. Jarosław Stawiarski, who visited Israel as part of ELNET's parliamentary delegation.

This is only one of dozens of examples of how we successfully use pro-Israel advocacy in Europe, with important contacts we've cultivated and educated by taking high ranking law makers and government officials to Israel. Polish officials are typically pro-Israel, but their interest in Israel needs to be deepened, which can then be translated to actual pro-Israel decisions on national and international levels.

We look forward to continued beneficial results from this important relationship.

Vital Voices - a large group of top Polish businesswomen to visit Israel

A visit of a high-profile business delegation to Israel to explore Israel's politics, hi-tech, and business sectors, as well as to see first-hand the gender equality enjoyed by Israelis. The project was in cooperation

with the Poland Chapter of Vital Voices and the Embassy of Israel in Warsaw.

The delegation came about as a result of the long-term relationship of Katarzyna Pietrzak, ELNET Poland's Project Manager, with the Poland Chapter of Vital Voices, as well as the relationships of ELNET-Poland Executive Director Jacek Olejnik's and Ms. Pietrzak's with several important potential Polish donors who suggested Israel as a valuable destination for the organization's annual delegation abroad. The close relations between ELNET-Poland and the Israeli Embassy in Warsaw made it easier to reach out to work with the organization to plan the agenda.

The delegation was attended by about 40 influential CEOs of Polish branches of international corporations and large Polish companies. The delegation was made up mostly of women, some of whom are highly politically involved.

This partnership allowed ELNET-Poland to create or deepen crucial relations with potential donors, and with influential female leaders in Poland. We hope to receive contributions from some of the participants, and use their political connections with our ongoing work with the law makers and government officials.



Pro-Israel legislation as part of upcoming Year of Poland-Israel Friendship 2018

ELNET-Poland inspired both chambers of the Polish parliament (Sejm and Senate) to consider naming 2018 as the Year of Poland-Israel Friendship (to commemorate the Jewish State's 70th birthday,

as well as Poland's 100th anniversary of re-gaining independence after WWI). It is not simply about events (although we plan them, too, including conferences, delegations, media presence, etc.), but actual influence on legislative process in Warsaw and eventually also on EU/NATO/UN levels.

The idea initially came up at a dinner hosted by ELNET-Poland in Warsaw in July 2016 after a delegation of 10 MPs of the governing party (Law and Justice) to Israel. As part of the delegation ELNET Poland hosted two deputy ministers (Energy and Sports). **It was the largest and most high-profile delegation of Polish parliament to Israel ever organized.** At the dinner, hosted by one of ELNET-Poland's local Polish donors, in the presence of Anna Azari, Israeli Ambassador to Poland, the idea emerged in the discussion and the MPs were very excited about it.

Israel – the main guest of the biggest security forum in Central Europe, and more

In 2014, ELNET-Poland, was established with only one person, no office, and no permanent budget. At that time, ELNET-Poland tried to partner in the biggest and most prestigious policy and security event in Poland, the Warsaw Security Forum (WSF). ELNET-Poland was unsurprisingly, not accepted to participate; there was not even one Israeli speaker, even at panels related to the Middle East.

Since that time, ELNET-Poland built a relationship with the chairman of this event, Mr. Zbigniew Pisarski, who is a highly respected political figure in Poland. It took dozens of meetings and dinners funded by one of our donors, but eventually he agreed to visit Israel for the first time in his life, in a visit fully planned and executed by ELNET. He left Tel Aviv in love with the country and eager to know more about its political life and security issues. He invited Israel to be part of WSF in 2015, with one Israeli general invited to speak. In 2016,

the Forum had several Israeli experts, many side-events, and media attention. In 2017, the Forum will have a full panel on Israel with several speakers. Plans are underway to bring a major political figure from Israel to open the event and engage in close friendly relations with peers in Poland's security, military, and intelligence communities. In 2018, Israel will be a main participant at the event, with large stands all over the site, promotion of Israeli hi-tech and military businesses, and tremendous media attention. This will be a central part of the Poland-Israel Friendship Year, and a first-class finale of a long process of lobbying and relationship building.

Further, thanks to these efforts, ELNET-Poland, in cooperation with ELNET-Israel, will host Grzegorz Małeck, the former head of the Polish Intelligence Agency, in Israel. He has shown himself to be supportive of our work.



Mr. Grzegorz Małeck, ELNET's guest at CyberWeek in Tel Aviv



Forum of Strategic Dialogue

David Siegel
ELNET-Israel, CEO

Eran Etzion
Forum of Strategic Dialogue, Executive Director

The EU will become more security oriented, pragmatically driven and less globalized, which brings it closer to Israel on the level of narrative and potentially on the policy level as well. While this so far has not affected the age-old "linkage" (conditionality) between the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and EU-Israel relations,

rapidly changing realities on the ground might force the EU to rethink its policy. Coupled with Israel's changing image as a partner on the critical issues of counter terrorism (CT) and cyber security, **there is a window of opportunity for a change in Israel-EU relations, which ELNET is nurturing.**

2nd EU-Israel Strategic Dialogue, November 2016

The FSD and ELNET organized the **Second EU-Israel Strategic Dialogue** in Israel in November 2016 in partnership with the EPC (European Policy Center)—a leading EU think tank. The Dialogue attracted the participation of numerous high-level influential players in the EEAS: Dr. Nicholas Westcott, Managing Director for the Middle East and North Africa, EEAS, the second-most senior EU diplomat dealing with the Middle East, after EU HR/VP Mogherini herself; Amb. Fernando Gentilini, EU Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process (MEPP); and Dr. Nathalie Tocci, Deputy Director, special adviser to Ms. Mogherini, who led and authored the EU's new global strategy on foreign and security policy (EUGS). Dr. Westcott mentioned, "Quite a lot of good things are happening, often unseen by the naked eye, but they are there" and "EU-Israel cooperation is moving in a relatively positive direction" in an interview with the Times of Israel. A high-ranking EU official even qualified "our unofficial dialogue as the real strategic dialogue, while the official dialogue is not really a dialogue." The dialogue reached wide audiences in the Twitter world — about 65,000 users.

The seeds were sown for the FSD to launch an **annual Italy-Israel Strategic Dialogue**. The FSD and the IAI are currently working to gather support for this important endeavour, which could hopefully be realized by the end of this year. The FSD and ELNET are in the process of creating a joint policy paper with the EPC on future EU-Israel relations under the Trump administration, which

will be published and distributed to key EU and Israeli officials.

2nd UK-Israel Strategic Dialogue, April 2017

The FSD and Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs, one of the world's leading think tanks, successfully held their second annual UK-Israel Strategic Dialogue in April 2017. The UK-Israel bilateral relations are strong, especially regarding trade and military, security, and intelligence cooperation, characterized as "the best ever."

Post-Brexit there is high uncertainty regarding the UK's strategy towards the US and the EU in areas such as trade arrangements, Justice & Home Affairs and counter terrorism (information sharing, Europol, etc.) and the Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP) among others, which gave the group of British and Israeli senior officials, politicians, experts and journalists plenty of material to discuss.

Minister Tzachi Hanegbi, Minister of Regional Cooperation and acting Minister of Communication gave a keynote address articulating the valuable work of Israel's Ministry of Regional cooperation as well as challenges and opportunities for Israel in a changing Middle East. He then addressed questions of the participants of the Dialogue triggered by their first full day of discussions.

The FSD is looking into publishing an expert note with Chatham House following the dialogue. Considering the UK is leaving the EU and will formulate its foreign policy towards Israel independently, this track is of particular importance.



David Siegel (ELNET-Israel CEO) with Israel's Minister Tzachi Hanegbi, Minister of Regional Cooperation and then Acting Minister of Communication and Nadav Eyal, Chief International Correspondent, Channel 10 News at the 2nd UK-Israel Strategic Dialogue.

17th Herzliya Conference (4th year), June 2017

For the fourth consecutive year, ELNET and the FSD hosted a special, invitation only Roundtable session in June 2017 at the prestigious 17th Herzliya Conference in partnership with the IDC (Interdisciplinary Center). The Herzliya Conference is Israel's primary annual global policy gathering, drawing together Israeli and international participants

from the highest levels of government, business, and academia to address pressing national, regional and global strategic issues. Conclusion, and/or next steps following it.

The Roundtable session was entitled "A new Europe in the making: what's in store for Israel and the Middle East?" and included 13 carefully selected speakers, as well as around 30 influential decision-makers in the European-Israeli arena. Participants and guests from across Europe, the US and Israel included no less than five European ambassadors to Israel (France, Germany, Greece, Cyprus and Finland) as well as Dr. Philip H. Gordon, Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations and former Special Assistant to President Barack Obama and White House Coordinator for the Middle East, North Africa, and the Gulf Region; Amb. Jeremy Issacharoff, Vice Director General, Head of Multilateral Affairs Directorate, Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA); and MK Ksenia Svetlova, Alternate Member, Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

The Roundtable was yet another example of our solid partnership with the Herzliya Conference, which no doubt contributes to building our network and enhancing our ability to influence policymakers and elected officials involved in European-Israeli affairs.

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Contact for Friends of ELNET

Lee Rosenblum: (917) 722-1255 • lrosenblum@felnetus.org
641 Lexington Avenue, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10022
Jonathan Boyer: (310) 205-0488 • jboyer@felnetus.org
10573 West Pico Blvd. #369 • Los Angeles, CA 90064

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