

**Czech-Israeli Intergovernmental Consultations**  
**Joint Statement**

Prague, May 17, 2012

Today, May 17, 2012, the Government of the Czech Republic and the Israeli Government are holding their intergovernmental consultations in Prague.

The Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, Mr. Petr Nečas, and the Prime Minister of the State of Israel, Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu, note with satisfaction the friendship and the historical partnership between the two countries, the unrelenting reciprocal support, the mutual respect for each other's sovereign status and the joint recognition in the political, defense and economic requirements of the two countries.

The Prime Ministers emphasize their aspiration to further strengthen the close relations between the two Governments and the unique ties between the two peoples, based on a thousand-year-old affinity between the Czech people and the Jewish people.

The Prime Ministers wish to thank all those who work tirelessly to advance the ties between the two countries.

The following are the Government members participating in the consultations:

On the Czech Republic side:

Prime Minister **Petr Nečas**

First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Karel Schwarzenberg**

Minister of Industry and Trade, **Martin Kuba**

Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, **Petr Fiala**

Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, **Jaromír Drábek**

Minister of Transport, **Pavel Dobeš**

Minister for Regional Development, **Kamil Jankovský**

Minister of Culture, **Alena Hanáková**

On the Israeli side:

Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu**

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Avigdor Lieberman**

Minister of Industry, Trade and Labor, **Shalom Simhon**

Minister of Science and Technology, **Daniel Hershkowitz**

Minister of Social Affairs and Communications, **Moshe Kahlon**

Minister of Transport, National Infrastructure and Road Safety, **Israel Katz**

Minister of Housing and Construction, **Ariel Atias**

Minister of Culture and Sport, **Limor Livnat**

## **Foreign Affairs**

The unique strong and deep ties between the Czech Republic and the State of Israel are based on the thousand-year-old abundant Jewish presence in Bohemia and Moravia, which was almost completely destroyed by the Nazis during the Holocaust. These ties were forged during Israel's War of Independence and reformulated when the Czechs once again regained their freedom after the Velvet Revolution. The Czech Republic supports the State of Israel's right to self-defense against terrorist attacks and shares the worldwide concern regarding Iranian efforts to enrich uranium for military purposes while threatening to annihilate the State of Israel.

In light of these strong bonds the Czech Republic and the State of Israel renew their commitment to strengthen the strategic partnership between them and to continue their efforts to further promote Israel's relations with the EU. Both Governments recognize the importance and the mutual benefits for Israel and the EU in further developing their partnership within the framework of the ENP.

In the international and UN arenas, the Czech Republic and the State of Israel will jointly promote the values upon which both states were founded. In that respect the Czech Republic and the State of Israel will also continue to cooperate closely in international forums.

Both Governments strongly affirm that calls for the destruction of the State of Israel and any denial of the Holocaust are totally unacceptable.

The Government of the Czech Republic joins the Israeli Government in its strong opposition against any manifestation of delegitimization and boycotts against the State of Israel.

The Czech Republic and the State of Israel share the belief that a just and lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict must and can be reached only as a result of direct negotiations. Such a solution must be based on the principle of two states, embodying the right of the Jewish and Palestinian peoples to self-determination, living side by side in peace, security and mutual recognition.

The two Governments, through their respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs, will continue to promote and elaborate the dialogue in the strategic, economic and research fields. They will also join forces in supporting development projects in third countries if such projects can be detected. The said Ministries will also examine programs for encouraging the exchange of delegations of young diplomats, public figures, journalists and youth.

The Ministries will also actively promote the development of permanent cooperation of academic institutions and think-tanks in the field of foreign policy and security. This also includes the support for establishment of Czech-Israeli Forum, which held its first meeting in November 2011 in Prague. The Czech side welcomes the willingness of the Israeli side to organize the next meeting in Israel during 2012/2013.

## **Defense**

The Governments recognize the cooperation in the field of defense and security as a key area in the Czech-Israeli relations. Bearing in mind the historical military ties between both nations as well as the Principle Memorandum of Understanding between the defense ministries of both states, the Czech Republic and the State of Israel are determined to promote and deepen the strategic cooperation between them. Based on the principles of reciprocity, higher technological value added and sustainability of joint projects, both sides' military and defense experts will explore opportunities in the areas of training and education, industrial modernization programs and research and development.

The areas of mutual interest will include in particular: robotic equipment; airspace protection; air defense, protection of forces, artillery systems, NBC and special forces.

### **National Security and Emergency Situations**

The Governments agree to strengthen and expand cooperation in the field of home-front defense, especially the fight against radicalism and terror. In this framework, the Governments will exchange knowledge in the field of information systems for border security, border crossings, airports and ports.

The Governments will cooperate and assist one another in emergency situations resulting from disasters.

The Governments declare their intent to complete negotiations on the Agreement on Cooperation in the Fight against Crime, and to sign it before the end of 2012.

### **Industrial Research and Development**

The Governments will cooperate in the field of private sector industrial research and development (R&D), guided by the following objectives:

- a) Promote the activities of their respective private sectors to intensify bilateral cooperation in industrial R&D.
- b) Facilitate the identification of specific projects, partnerships or collaborations between entities from the two countries that could lead to cooperation in industrial R&D.
- c) Coordinate and focus suitable Government resources and programs to support industrial cooperation and commercial exploitation of project results in R&D.
- d) Support joint projects in industrial R&D between entities from the two countries that have been approved by each party respectively.

### **Culture**

The Government of Israel welcomes the “Days of Prague in Israel” festival in Jerusalem during 2012, produced in collaboration with the Israel Festival and the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Israel. This project will include leading Czech ensembles and artists performing in Israel. Likewise, the Government of the Czech Republic commends the intention to hold a “Jerusalem Days in Prague” festival in 2013.

The Governments express their gratitude to the donors and to the Ambassador of the Czech Republic in Tel Aviv who initiated and made possible a performance of “The Defiant Requiem: Verdi at Terezín,” which will be played in memory of the Jews of the Theresienstadt Ghetto as a part of the “Days of Prague in Israel” festival. The Czech side appreciates the financial contribution of the Government of Israel.

The Governments welcome the initiative to negotiate a Film Coproduction Treaty between the Czech Republic and the State of Israel.

### **Youth**

The Governments agree to increase the scope of youth exchanges between the State of Israel and the Czech Republic, with the aim of creating friendships among the younger generation in both countries. They shall therefore promote such exchanges and encourage mutual projects of young professionals and experts. Details in this regard shall be determined between the Israel Youth Exchange Council and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic.

Israel has been an active partner of the EuroMed Youth Program since its foundation. The Governments emphasize the importance of the participation of youth organizations from both countries in joint projects in the framework of the EuroMed Program.

### **Academic Ties**

The Government of the Czech Republic sponsored the establishment of a chair in the name of Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk at the Interdisciplinary Center, Herzliya. The Israeli Government will help in finding donors with the purpose of establishing a chair in the name of Theodor Herzl in the Masaryk University in the Czech Republic.

Both Governments express their satisfaction at the long-standing cooperation in the field of higher education and underline the importance of maintaining the current level of scholarship exchanges. The Governments welcome the endeavours of institutions of higher education in both countries to strengthen their ties through agreements on direct cooperation.

Both parties welcome the results achieved in cooperation between the Israeli Ministry of Science and Technology and the Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, and the Joint Statement of the mentioned Ministries which creates suitable conditions for further developing ties and cooperation.

Both Governments also welcome and support the close cooperation between “Yad Vashem” and the Institute of Study of Totalitarian Regimes.

### **Holocaust Education**

The Governments declare that they will make every effort to ensure that future generations continue to commemorate the Czech Jewish community which was almost completely destroyed during the heinous genocide committed by Nazi Germany as part of the Holocaust of European Jewry.

The Governments have agreed to enhance their cooperation on the subject of Holocaust education by training Czech teachers at "Yad Vashem" in the subjects of Holocaust education in schools.

Both parties recognize the importance of the establishment of the *European Shoah Legacy Institute* (ESLI) and look forward to substantial cooperation with the Institute.

The Governments commend the Czech Military Archive and support the exhibition “*Operation Anthropoid*” (to be presented in Israel on the occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Czech resistance movement’s assassination of Reinhard Heydrich, the Nazi war criminal, and one of the main architects of the Holocaust).

The Governments welcome joint long-term support of the Beit Terezin Museum located in Kibbutz Givat Chaim Ichud.

### **Bilateral Trade**

The Governments acknowledge the high level of mutual economic relations and constant growth of foreign trade and investments.

The Governments will continue to create a positive business environment, including measures to facilitate trade and investment and to remove existing administrative obstacles.

## **Science, Technology and Space**

The fields of Science and Technology are of prime importance to both Governments. Therefore, both Governments have increased their efforts to maximize benefits from the R&D Agreement (Gesher-Most) and aspire to significantly increase the number of approved projects during the next two calls.

Following the implementation of the existing Gesher-Most program in applied research, the Governments appreciate the enhancement of cooperation in other fields of research and welcome the calls for proposals within the work plan for the years 2013-2015.

Both parties also appreciate the mutual involvement in technological cooperation via the Czech Accelerator project, which enables Czech companies to gain experience and contacts in the State of Israel. Both parties will consider the possible establishment of a system for consultations devoted to Israel's experience in promoting industrial research and small start-up companies.

Both parties recognize the field of space technologies as a key tool for strengthening competitiveness of national economies. To this end the cooperation in national and international space programs, especially in industrial development, exchange of data and practical applications of space technologies, is seen as an indispensable dimension of bilateral relations deserving further intensification.

In order to achieve the desired ends, the Czech Republic, as a member state of the European Union and the European Space Agency as well as the host country of the European GNSS Agency managing the Galileo project, will help to provide a gateway for the State of Israel to cooperate in these international platforms.

Both parties will work intensely on the inter-institutional level to support and promote closer ties between the sectors of their industry which focus on developing space applications with spin-off effects to everyday life and other sectors of the economy.

Both parties commit to work together to create a joint platform allowing for a direct interface for industry representatives from both countries, with an aim to provide grounds for facilitating joint ventures in development and production of space technologies.

Both parties welcome the visit of the four Israeli Nobel laureate scientists to the Czech Republic in May 2012 for a scientific conference and professional meetings. This important visit is part of the efforts the governments are making in order to increase the scientific cooperation between the countries and enable them to gain experience from each other.

## **Social Affairs**

The Governments consider further co-operation and exchange of information to be beneficial in the development of social services, social and legal protection of children and youth and pension reforms, as well as promotion of equal opportunities for persons with disabilities.

## **Transportation**

Both sides welcome the results achieved by the national aviation authorities. The cooperation has resulted in signing the Protocol between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the State of Israel regarding changes in the existing bilateral Agreement on the Air Transport. The Protocol creates suitable conditions for the further development of air transport between the Czech Republic and the State of Israel.

The Governments have agreed to jointly expand their mutual contacts and willingness to promote their transport policy cooperation in the area of intelligent transport systems, electric mobility and other innovations for sustainable mobility.

### **Construction and Housing**

The Governments will exchange information in the field of construction standards, methods of industrializing construction, energy-saving construction, affordable housing, etc.

The Governments will exchange information in the field of building renovation and related technologies, as well as energy efficiency and management of water resources related to construction.

### **Conclusion**

The Prime Ministers reiterate the tremendous importance they attribute to the ties between the two countries and agree to conduct intergovernmental consultations between the Governments of the Czech Republic and the State of Israel in Jerusalem in 2013.

---

H.E. Petr Nečas  
Prime Minister of the Czech Republic

---

H.E. Benjamin Netanyahu  
Prime Minister of the State of Israel