





Dear Participants,

Welcome to the EFI Policy Conference 2008.

Following last year's decision of the Israel-EU Association Council to launch a new process to upgrade bilateral relations, I am delighted that parliamentarians from 38 countries across our continent are able to join this initiative to explore ways of forging an even closer partnership with Israel.

EFI was only launched two years ago; and that so many distinguished European and national political leaders and parliamentarians have been able to join us here in Paris is a tremendous demonstration of support for our young organisation. My appreciation too is extended to our Israeli parliamentary friends who have travelled to join us just as their general election has been called.

Together, I'm confident we will make an important contribution towards our shared objectives of building an even stronger bridge between Europe and Israel.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the professional teams, the producers, the organizers, our partners as well as our sponsors without whom this event would not have been possible.

I wish you a pleasant stay in Paris.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gunnar Hökmark'. The signature is stylized and cursive, written over a light blue background.

Gunnar Hökmark  
Chairman EFI

Chers Participants,

Bienvenue à la Policy Conférence EFI 2008.

L'année dernière le Conseil d'Association Israël-Union européenne a décidé de lancer un nouveau processus pour renforcer et améliorer les relations bilatérales. Aujourd'hui je suis très heureux que des parlementaires issus de 38 pays à travers notre continent aient pu rejoindre cet important événement pour explorer de nouvelles pistes en vue de promouvoir un partenariat privilégié avec Israël.

EFI a été créée il y a seulement deux ans. Voir autant de leaders européens et nationaux rassemblés aujourd'hui avec nous à Paris est une magnifique démonstration du soutien dont jouit notre jeune organisation.

Ma reconnaissance va bien entendu aussi à nos amis parlementaires israéliens qui nous ont rejoints alors que des élections générales viennent d'être décidées.

Ensemble, je suis confiant que nous atteindrons nos objectifs communs pour construire des liens encore plus solides entre l'Europe et Israël.

Je profite de cette tribune pour également remercier les équipes professionnelles, les producteurs, les organisateurs, nos partenaires et, bien entendu, nos sponsors sans qui cet événement n'aurait pas été possible.

Je vous souhaite un agréable séjour à Paris.



Gunnar Hökmark  
Président EFI



## *TODAY...*

*We can join forces to build relationships and explore opportunities... We can work as one to share a lasting dialogue between nations to benefit generations to come... We can come together in this first-of-its kind event in Europe since the establishment of the State of Israel to promote a stronger alliance between Europe and Israel...*

### WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 5, 2008

18:00-20:00 Early registration, Meridien Hotel

### THURSDAY NOVEMBER 6, 2008

10:00-12:00 **REGISTRATION OPENS**, *Le Pavillon d'Armenonville*

12:00-13:30 **PLENARY SESSION I: Promoting Europe-Israel Dialogue and Partnership**, *Le Pavillon d'Armenonville*

13:30-14:30 **LUNCH**, *Le Pavillon d'Armenonville*

14:30-17:30 **PLENARY SESSION II: Upgrading Bilateral Relations: A Declaration for Democracy and Peace**, *Le Pavillon d'Armenonville*

17:30-19:00 **END OF PLENARY SESSIONS:** Courtesy coaches return briefly to Hotel

19:00-20:00 **OFFICIAL RECEPTION**, *Le Pavillon d'Armenonville*

20:00 **GALA DINNER**, *Le Pavillon d'Armenonville*

### FRIDAY NOVEMBER 7, 2008

08:30-10:00 **BREAKFAST CLOSING PLENARY SESSION:**  
**The Future of the EU-Israel Relations**, *Meridien Hotel*

10:00-12:00 **WORKSHOPS SESSIONS:** Guests Speakers from the European and international political scene on:  
• **Through Green eyes**, *Meridien Hotel*  
• **Hand in Hand to a Better Future: Life with Technology**, *Meridien Hotel*

12:00-13:30 **CLOSING LUNCH:**  
Promoting Peace - dealing with the core issue.  
A special lunch presented by the International Israeli Allies Caucus, Meridien Hotel

## PLENARY SESSION I



### PROMOTING EUROPE-ISRAEL DIALOGUE AND PARTNERSHIP

Over the last few years Europe-Israel relations have moved to a new level. Today, both aim to deepen existing economic ties, to develop closer cooperation in fields like energy and transport, and to share more information and experience between businessmen, academics, local authorities and young people. In this plenary session we will discuss how to create new opportunities to promote an even more effective partnership between Israel and Europe.



PAVILLON D'ARMENONVILLE, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2008, 12:00-13:30



COURTESY COACHES WILL LEAVE THE MERIDIEN HOTEL TO THE PAVILLON D'ARMENONVILLE BETWEEN 11:00 and 11:45

Chair: **Mr. Gunnar Hökmark** MEP, EFI  
Chairman, Vice-President EPP-ED, European  
Parliament, Sweden

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**Mr. Luis Maria de Puig** President,  
Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of  
Europe

**Mr. Marek Siwiec** MEP, EFI Vice-Chairman,  
Vice-President European Parliament, Poland

**Mr. Rudy Salles** Vice-President of the  
Assemblée Nationale, France

**Mrs. Petra Pau**, Vice President of the  
Bundestag, Germany

**Mrs. Dalia Itzik** MK, Speaker of the Knesset,  
Israel

Speaking time will be given by the Chair upon request and according to the remaining time.

**Mr. Claude Goasguen** Deputy, President of  
the Parliamentary Friendship Group with  
Israel, France

**Rt. Hon. Alistair Burt** MP, Vice Chairman of  
the Conservative Friends of Israel, UK

**Mr. Luka Bebic** President of the Parliament,  
Croatia

## PLENARY SESSION II



### UPGRADING BILATERAL RELATIONS: A DECLARATION FOR DEMOCRACY AND AN EVER CLOSER PARTNERSHIP



PAVILLON D'ARMENONVILLE, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2008, 14:30-17:30

**PART I: 14:30 - 15:30\***  
**UPGRADING BILATERAL RELATIONS**

**PART II: 16:00 - 17:30**  
**PARIS DECLARATION**

**Chair: Mr. Marek Siwiec** MEP, EFI Vice-Chairman,  
Vice-President European Parliament, Poland

**Mrs. Jana Hybaskova** MEP, Chairwoman  
of the EP Delegation for relations with  
Israel, Czech Republic

**Mrs. Amira Dotan** MK, Head of the  
Knesset Delegation for Relations with the  
European Parliament, Israel

**Mr. Joao Rebelo** MP, Chairman of the  
Parliamentary Friendship Group with Israel,  
Portugal

**Mr. Emanuelis Zingeris** MP, Chairman of  
the Parliamentary Friendship Group with  
Israel, Lithuania

**Mr. Marko Mihkelson** Chairman of the  
Foreign Affairs Committee, Estonia

**Mr. Angel Lossad** State secretary for Foreign  
Affairs and International Cooperation, Spain

**Opening remarks by:**  
**Mr. Vladimir Sloutsker** Senator, Russia

**Mrs. Colette Avital** MK, Deputy Speaker of  
the Knesset, Israel

**Mrs. Vaira Paegle** MP, Chairperson of the  
Foreign Affairs Committee, Latvia

**Mr. Bjarne Kallis** MP, Chairperson of the  
Parliamentary Israel Friendship Group,  
Finland

**Mr. David Tal** MK, Deputy Speaker of the  
Knesset, Israel

**Mr. Yaşar Yakış** MP, Chairman of EU  
Harmonization Committee; Former  
Foreign Affairs Minister, Turkey

**Closing remarks by: Mr. Hans-Gert Pötering**  
President of the European Parliament

\* 15:30 - 16:00 - BREAK, complimentary light refreshments will be served.  
Speaking time will be given by the Chair upon request and according to the remaining time.

## PARIS DECLARATION

We, parliamentarians from the European Parliament and national parliaments of the European Union and the Council of Europe, having assembled here in Paris under the banner of EFI-European Friends of Israel in a spirit of trust and cooperation.

Committed to supporting permanent peace and reconciliation in the Middle East and to strengthening democracy in the region

Recognizing that the State of Israel is a genuine pluralistic democratic country, embracing freedom of speech, association and religion under the rule of law and a country committed to equal rights, a respect for minorities and religious diversity

Recognizing that Israel has developed a successful market economy and a vibrant political and cultural society despite the burdens of military attacks, terrorism and even economic boycotts against it

Recognizing that Israel is one of the global leaders in the high-tech industry and is at the forefront of research and development in the fields of energy conservation and medicine, and continues to make a significant contribution to the improvement of humanity

Recognizing that successive Israeli governments have sought peace and have established good relations with Egypt and Jordan, and today continue to seek peaceful relations with its neighbours including the Palestinian people to create two states living in peace side by side

Recognizing the common values that bind Europe and Israel and a shared cultural heritage reinforced by interests based upon friendship and mutual respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities

Hereby affirm:

- Our full support for all those seeking to contribute to peace in the Middle East and for the establishment of a responsible, vibrant and functioning Palestinian state that will live aside Israel in peace and security
- Our commitment to Israel's security and our rejection of all forms of aggression, terrorism, incitement against – and de-legitimization of – Israel and its people
- Our call to the states of the region to support the aim of peaceful coexistence, including denying any support to those engaged in extremism and terrorism, as well as advancing normalization and peaceful relations with Israel
- Our determination to deepen the already close ties of friendship and cooperation between Europe and Israel particularly through a significant upgrading of relations between Israel and the European Union, both in terms of form and substance



# OFFICIAL RECEPTION & GALA DINNER

The Official Reception at the Pavillon d'Armenonville will be followed by a prestigious Gala Dinner in the presence of distinguished political leaders from France, Europe and Israel.



**PAVILLON D'ARMENONVILLE, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2008, 20:00**



**COURTESY COACHES WILL BE WAITING AT 18:30 AT THE MERIDIEN HOTEL ENTRANCE**

## INVITED GUESTS OF HONOUR

**H.E. Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy** President of the French Republic

**H.E. Mr. Shimon Peres**, President of the State of Israel

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**H.E. Mr. Aleksander Kwasniewski** Former President of Poland

**H.E. Mr. Ion Iliescu** Former President of Romania

## **Welcoming words by:**

**Mr. Gunnar Hökmark** MEP, EFI Chairman, Sweden

## **Tribute of Honour:**

**Mr. Noam Shalit** father of Gilad Shalit, Israel

## **Artistic Performance by:**

**Ahinoam Nini** (Noa), Israel

## CLOSING PLENARY SESSION



In this closing plenary session over breakfast we will conclude with recommendations on how to create a closer partnership between Israel and Europe and build a framework to achieve mutual goals.

## THE FUTURE OF THE EUROPE-ISRAEL RELATIONS



MERIDIEN HOTEL, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2008, 08:30-10:00

Chair: **Mr. Gunnar Hökmark** MEP, EFI Chairman, Vice-President EPP-ED, European Parliament, Sweden

Opening remarks by:

**Mr. Alexander Vondra** Deputy Prime Minister of European Affairs, Czech Republic

**Mr. Maxime Verhagen** Foreign Affairs Minister, the Netherlands (*tbc*)

**Mr. Radion Popov** Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bulgaria

**Mr. Ami Ayalon** Minister in the Prime Minister's office, Israel

**Mr. Yossi Gal** Senior Deputy Director General, Foreign Affairs Ministry, Israel

Closing remarks by:

**Mr. Karel Schwarzenberg** Foreign Affairs Minister, Czech Republic

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**Mr. Jerzy Montag** MdB, Chairman of the Parliamentary Friendship Group with Israel, Bundestag, Germany

**Mr. Claude Goasguen** Deputy, President of the Parliamentary Friendship Group with Israel, France

**Mr. Nickolay Mladenov** MEP, EFI European Parliamentary Committee, Bulgaria

**Mr. Boris Shpigel** MP, Chairman of Israel Friendship Group, Russia

**Mr. Boris Cilevics** MP, Chairman of the Parliamentary Friendship Group with Israel, Latvia

**Mr. Panos Panagiotopoulos** MP, Former Minister for Employment and Social Protection, Hellenic Republic

Speaking time will be given by the Chair upon request and according to the remaining time.

## THROUGH GREEN EYES



This workshop will deal with environmental challenges. The title “through green eyes” was chosen for its association with nature, health, and growth. Environmental development is a key to achieving overall sustainable development. This workshop will analyze what is a green environment and what the common challenges that EU and Israel face to achieve it. A closer partnership in this field would assist in the efforts to make the world greener.



**MERIDIEN HOTEL, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2008, 10:15 – 11:00**

Chair: **Mrs. Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines** MEP,  
Spain

**Mr. Pekka Haavisto** MP, Former Minister for  
Environment, Finland

**Mr. Boguslaw Sonik** MEP, Poland

**Mr. Jacob Muaelm Maron**, Director Kidum  
R&D Applications, Agricultural Research  
Organization, Israel

*Additional speakers are expected to be added to the list.*

## HAND IN HAND TO A BETTER FUTURE



### LIFE WITH TECHNOLOGY

This workshop will deal with life science and high-tech challenges. Both Europe and Israel have much to offer in those fields. Cooperation and a closer partnership will strengthen worldwide innovation. The future lies in the hands of innovation, technology and science. In this workshop we will explore the importance of technology for a better life and the ways Europe and Israel can work together to reinforce this objective.

An Introduction by two non-profit organizations: “Save a Child’s Heart” & “A Heart for Peace”. Both provide pediatric heart surgery and follow-up care for children from third world and developing countries.



**MERIDIEN HOTEL, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2008, 11:00 – 12:15**

Chair: **Dr. Charles Tannock** MEP, EFI  
European Parliamentary Committee, UK

**Mrs. Frédérique Ries** MEP, Vice-Chairwoman  
of EFI, Belgium

**Mr. Arpad Gogl** MP, Former Minister of  
Health, Hungary

**Dr. Antonyia Parvanova** MP, Deputy  
Chairperson of the Health Care Committee,  
Bulgaria

**Mr. Marcel Daniels** Vice-President of TEVA  
Europe, Belgium

**Mr. Eddy Cuckierman** CEO of Catalyst,  
Israel

*Additional speakers are expected to be added to the list.*

## CLOSING LUNCH



## PROMOTING PEACE: DEALING WITH THE CORE ISSUE

The main aim of EFI is promoting democracy, peace and dialogue. Accordingly, this last closing lunch session will be dedicated to the different ways of promoting peace as a core issue. During this discussion panel, new approaches to promoting peace and dialogue in the Middle-East will be reviewed, as well as the issue of the Refugees in the Region. What are the main obstacles to peace? How to face with these obstacles? All these issues and more will be discussed and reviewed. \*



**MERIDIEN HOTEL, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2008, 12:00-13:30**

Chair: **Mr. Paulo Casaca** MEP, EFI European Parliamentary Committee, Portugal

**Mr. Hannu Takkula** MEP, EFI European Parliamentary Committee, Finland

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### Opening Remarks by:

**Rt. Hon Lord David Trimble**, MP, Former First Minister of Northern Ireland, Nobel Peace Laureate, UK

**Mr. Benyamin Elon** MK, Chairman of the Knesset Christian Allies Caucus, Israel

**Mrs. Amira Dotan** MK, Member of the Knesset Christian Allies Caucus, Israel

*\* A special lunch presented by the International Israel Allies Caucus.  
Additional speakers are expected to be added to the list.*

## SPECIAL EVENT EXHIBITION “From Art to Heart”

### SAVE A CHILD’S HEART: ISRAELI DOCTORS SAVING LIFE

Throughout the EFI policy conference an exhibition will be held at the Pavillon d’Armenonville. The exhibition is of children from vastly different areas of the world, of all ages, colours and genders. These children were given the gift of life by the dedicated Israeli doctors, nurses and support staff who form the core of Save a Child’s Heart.



# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Catering

Complimentary light refreshments will be available throughout the conference.

Lunch will be served during Thursday's plenary session and dinner during the Gala evening.

Breakfast will be served during the closing plenary session on Friday

## Languages

Simultaneous interpretation in English, German, Russian, Hebrew and French will be available during the plenary sessions. Workshops will take place in English.

## Contact & Information

Throughout the conference EFI information desk will be available for any questions or requests.

## Transportation

Courtesy coaches will be provided from the Meridien Hotel to the Pavillon d'Armenonville, as well as from the airport/train station to the Meridien Hotel

## Dress Code

For all events: Business Formal

## Registration

Admission to the conference will only be permitted after registration. Participants will receive nametag which they are kindly requested to wear at all times during the Policy Conference

Registration desks will be available:

- **At the Hotel:** on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> and Friday 7<sup>th</sup>
- **At the Pavillon d'Armenonville:** on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>

## FOR URGENT MATTERS:

Emergency Number France:

Mr. Michel Gourary, EFI Conference Committee

EFI Director, Mr. Dimitri Dombret:

Political Affairs Officer, Ms. Meital Goor:

Registration Officer, Mr. Barak Granot:

Press Officer, Ms. Alexandra Vardi:

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## EUROPEAN FRIENDS OF ISRAEL

EFI is a transnational, politically-independent association formed in 2006 by friends of Israel in the European parliament and in the EU's 27 member parliaments. Headquartered in Brussels, Belgium, EFI draws its members together to increase understanding and to deepen the relationship between Europe and Israel, and promote democracy, peace and dialogue in the region.

*In the pages ahead, we've highlighted some of EFI's proudest moments over the last two years.*



## EFI HONORARY COMMITTEE - POLICY CONFERENCE



### **Vaclav Havel**

*Last President of Czechoslovakia, 1989–1992; First President of the Czech Republic, 1993–2003*



### **Aleksander Kwasniewski**

*President of Poland, 1995–2005*



### **Vaira Vike-Freiberga**

*President of Latvia, 1999–2007*



### **Philip Dimitrov Dimitrov**

*Prime Minister of Bulgaria, 1991; Special Envoy of the President of the OSCE for Armenia and Azerbaijan, 2004*



### **Sir John Major**

*Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, 1990–1997*



### **Wilfried Martens**

*Nine-time Prime Minister of Belgium, 1979–1992; President of the European People's Party, 1992–Present*



### **Péter Medgyessy**

*Prime Minister of Hungary, 2002–2004*



### **Lord David Trimble**

*First Minister of Northern Ireland 1998–2007, Nobel Peace Laureate '98*

## EFI GALA LUNCH EVENT

September 13, 2006

European Friends of Israel was formally launched on September 13, 2006 by 300 MEPs, MKs, distinguished guests and lay leaders. In two short years, it has successfully brought together politicians and activists from all backgrounds for the express purpose of advancing the EU's relationship with Israel

**Left to right:**  
*Dimitri Dombret, Director EFI; Michel Gourary, Director ENF; Oded Eran, Israeli Ambassador to the EU; Benita Ferrero Waldner, European Commissioner of External Relations; Amira Dotan, Member of Knesset; Gunnar Hökmark, MEP, Sweden, Chairman EFI*



## POLITICAL ACTION AND PRESS CONFERENCE TO INVOLVE EU POLICY MAKERS IN THE PLIGHT OF KIDNAPPED ISRAELI SOLDIERS

**November, 2006**

Members of the European Parliament appeal to free the three  
Kidnapped Israeli Soldiers



## HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

**January 27, 2007**

The first-ever joint mission of parliamentarians from Europe  
and members of the Knesset to the Auschwitz-Birkenau  
death camp on the occasion of Holocaust Remembrance Day



# THE IRANIAN NUCLEAR THREAT

## CONFERENCE AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

March 7, 2007

“How International Economic and Financial Sanctions can stop Iran from Developing its Nuclear Program and Supporting Terror?”

Hosted by **Paulo Casaca**, MEP & **Jana Hybaskova**, MEP



## RAISING AWARENESS OF IRAN'S THREAT TO ISRAEL AND THE EU, CALL FOR SANCTIONS

April 26, 2007

Many parliamentarians, including 5 members of the EFI Steering Committee signed a bill encouraging businesses to understand the Iranian threat and help neutralize it: “...Call upon the EU and its member states to fully implement UN Security Council resolution 1747 in order to prevent a destabilizing accumulation of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East by a totalitarian regime... Encourage all European business to disengage from economic activities in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and especially with persons and entities designated in Annex I of resolution 1747 of the UN Security Council.”



## REINFORCING EUROPE-ISRAEL PARLIAMENTARIAN RELATIONS

April, 2007

EFI Steering Committee and Knesset Delegation  
Workshop in Strasbourg



Pictured:  
MK Amira Dotan,  
Chairperson of the  
Inter-Parliamentary  
Delegation to the  
European with MEP  
Gunnar Hökmark,  
Chairman of the EFI  
Steering Committee  
at the European  
Parliament

## RAISING AWARENESS OF SDEROT

June, 2007

The EFI sponsors ongoing political actions to raise awareness in the European Parliament of Sderot citizens' constant struggles and endangerment



Pictured:  
MEPs listening to  
Sderot citizens  
testimony  
in presence  
of the Israeli  
Ambassador to  
the EU, H.E Ran  
Curiel

## MISSION TO ISRAEL

July, 2007

During a Support Mission to Israel in July, 2007, EFI Delegation met with Prime Minister of Israel, Mr. Ehud Olmert; Foreign Affairs Minister Mrs. Tzipi Livni; Mr. Amos Gilad, Major General, Director of Military and Policy Bureau, Ministry of Defense; 15 EU Ambassadors and Diplomats; Head of the EU Commission to the State of Israel; and Josefina Reis Carvalho, Ambassador of Portugal, representative of the EU Presidency.

EFI Meeting with the Prime Minister of Israel, Mr. Ehud Olmert



EFI Meeting with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Israel, Mrs. Tzipi Livni



## CELEBRATION 60

April, 2008

Celebrating the 60th anniversary of the State of Israel within the European Parliament. Between 7th and 10th of April at the European Parliament, different activities were organized in order to present Israel's accomplishments in various fields. Panels focused on environment, humanitarian aid, education, health, R&D, high technologies, relations between EU and Israel, and more



## A REUNITED JERUSALEM

June, 2008

The EFI celebrated “Yom Yerushalaim” – Jerusalem Day, which commemorates the reunification of Jerusalem in 1967, at the European Parliament in Brussels, hosted by Finish MEP Hannu Takkula, Member of EFI. MK Reuven Rivlin, former Speaker of the Knesset, Marek Siwiec, Vice-President of the European Parliament and Vice-Chairman of EFI and Nickolay Mladenov, MEP, Member of EFI addressed the celebrations



Left to Right:  
MK Reuven Rivlin,  
MEP Marek Siwiec  
MEP Hannu Takkula  
MEP Nickolay Mladenov

