



Czech-Israeli Intergovernmental Consultations

Joint Statement

(Jerusalem, 15 September 2011)

On September 15, 2011, the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the State of Israel held the first intergovernmental consultations in Jerusalem.

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 historic partnership between the two countries, staunch reciprocal support, mutual respect for each other's sovereign status and 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 Government members participated in the consultations:

On the Czech Republic side:

Prime Minister Petr Nečas, Minister of Defense Alexandr Vondra, Minister of Industry and Trade Martin Kocourek, Minister of Education, Youth and Sports Josef Dobeš.

On the Israeli side:

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Avigdor Lieberman, Minister of Defense Ehud Barak, Minister of Education Gideon Saar.



Foreign Affairs

The unique strong and deep ties between the Czech Republic and the State of Israel are based on the thousand year old rich Jewish presence in Bohemia and Moravia, almost completely destroyed by the Nazis during the Holocaust, resuscitated during Israel's War of Independence and reformulated when 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 world wide 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. The Governments of both Israel and The Czech Republic recognize the importance and the mutual benefits for both Israel and the EU in further developing their partnership within the framework of the ENP.

The Czech Republic and the State of Israel will jointly promote in the international and UN arenas, 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 reaffirms its strong position 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 dialogue in the strategic, economic and research and development



fields. 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 will also include support for the establishment of a think-tank forum, which will hold its first meeting in November 2011 in Prague.

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 defence ministries of the two 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 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, and artillery systems

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.

Israel has been an active partner of the EuroMed Youth Program since its foundation. Both sides agree on the importance of youth in building bridges for future cooperation, peace and stability, and emphasize the importance of the participation of youth organizations from both countries in joint projects in the framework of the EuroMed Program.

Academic Exchanges

Both sides will encourage exchanges of academics, scientists and students. The Government of the Czech Republic sponsored the establishment of the Masaryk Distinguished Chair in IDC Herzliya designed for study visits of Czech scientists and researchers who specialize in



social sciences and humanities to the State of Israel. The Israeli side will encourage the idea of the establishment of a parallel Theodor Herzl Distinguished Chair at Masaryk University in the Czech Republic.

Holocaust Education

The Governments declare that, within their areas of responsibility, they will make every effort to ensure that future generations will 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 the 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 sides recognize the importance of the establishment of the European Shoa Legacy Institute (ESLI) and look forward to a substantial cooperation with the Institute.

The Israeli Government welcomes the long-term support and in particular the recent financial contribution to the modernization of Museum Beit Terezin archives by the Czech Government, and will continue to support the Museum located in Kibbutz Givat Chaim Ichud.

Culture, History and Education

During the negotiations, the Program for Co-operation in the Field of Education, Science and Culture between the Government of the Czech Republic and the Government of the State of Israel for the Years 2012 – 2015 was signed.

Both Governments support the completion of the Cooperation Agreement between the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes / Security Services Archive and Yad Vashem, The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority. The signing of the Agreement aims to institutionalize the continuous cooperation in joint research projects, providing archival materials, exchange of researchers and other activities of common interest.

Both sides support the interest of the Military History Archive of the Czech Republic in organizing an exhibition to be held in the State of Israel on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich.



The Israeli side welcomes the intention to hold a cultural presentation project called the "Prague Days in Israel" in collaboration with the Israel Festival and the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Tel Aviv in May and June, 2012. In the framework of this project, leading Czech ensembles and artists will be introduced in the State of Israel. The Czech side welcomes the organization of the "Jerusalem Days in Prague" in 2013.

Both Governments support the educational project "Cemach", which aims to familiarize Czech high school students with modern Israel, as well as reinforce their knowledge of the history of the Jewish life and contribution to Czech lands and people.

National Security and National Emergency Situations

The Governments agree to strengthen and expand cooperation in the fields of law enforcement and home-front defense, especially in the struggle against radicalism and terror.

The Governments will cooperate and assist one another in emergency situations resulting from natural disasters (fires, earthquakes, floods, etc).

Both sides declare their willingness to conclude negotiations on the Agreement on cooperation in combating crime and prepare it for signature before the intergovernmental consultations planned for 2012.

Bilateral Trade

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

The Governments will support cooperation between entrepreneurs from both countries and will continue to create a positive business environment, including measures to facilitate trade and investment and remove existing administrative obstacles.

Science, Technology and Space

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



Following the implementation of the existing Gesher/Most program in applied research, both Governments have a mutual interest in establishing a parallel bilateral program focusing upon academic research in life sciences and technology.

Both Parties also appreciate the mutual involvement in technological co-operation via the Czech Accelerator project, which enables Czech companies to gain new experience and contacts in the State of Israel.

Both Parties recognize the field of space technologies as a key tool for strengthening competitiveness of national economies. To this end the co-operation in national and international space programs with an emphasis on 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 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 sectors of their industry focusing on developing of 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 facilitating joint ventures in space technologies development and production.

Transportation

Both sides welcome the results achieved in the course of the recent aeronautical authorities' consultations, and commit to cooperate in creating suitable conditions for the further development of air transport between the Czech Republic and the State of Israel.



Environment

The Governments will strengthen their cooperation in the field of environmental protection, promotion of modern environmental technologies, water management, ecological burdens remediation and other fields of mutual interest.

Tourism

The Governments will cooperate and act to increase the number of tourists from each country visiting each other's country, to promote tourism and to encourage the exchange of information and expertise in organizing and managing tourism activities.

Energy

The Governments will act to expand cooperation with regard to electrical mobility and innovation in the field of alternative energy in transportation.

The Governments will cooperate in the fields of securing energy supply, innovation in energy, and producing, transporting and supplying of natural gas.

Agriculture

The Governments will work together to advance innovations in agriculture, with a particular emphasis on rural development and agricultural diversification.

The Governments will exchange knowledge and experiences in the field of rural tourism, including with regard to legislation, regulations and other matters of mutual interest.

Health

Both Parties welcome the productive cooperation in health and medical services to the benefit of the citizens of both countries – cooperation which enhances commercial ties between the countries.



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 Prague during 2012.

H.E. Petr Nečas

Prime Minister of the Czech Republic

H.E. Benjamin Netanyahu

Prime Minister of the State of Israel