

7th Annual EU – Israel International Seminar

The Green Transition in Europe and the Middle East



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International Seminar
The Green Transition in
Europe and the Middle East
05-06 November 2022
Tel Aviv, Israel

FEPS
FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN
PROGRESSIVE STUDIES



Fondation
Jean Jaurès

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Introduction

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region is a climate change hot spot when compared to other regions around the globe. MENA countries are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change as they are naturally affected by harsh climate conditions, extremely high temperatures, limited groundwater, and rainfall, and scarce agricultural and arable land.

The EU-MENA partnership in general, and specifically EU-Israel, has several advantages, benefiting both parties. The EU-Israel collaboration is viewed both as a source for exchanging knowledge and technology to combat climatic changes that are affecting the MENA region and as the EU serving as a mediator to other Israeli collaborations in the region. The EU-MENA collaboration is impacted by recent developments in the global energy market, due to the sanctions on the Russian energy pipeline supply. Those developments have further placed the Middle East in the spotlight, as the EU seeks to diversify its energy supply.

Therefore, it is crucial to discuss the challenges and opportunities for the green transition in Europe and in Israel, as well, as in the broader context of the Middle East, with the view that all parties could benefit from such cooperation. All this is done with the guidance of the European Green Deal, a roadmap for the EU to become climate-neutral by 2050, change its energy system and transform its economy, as well as contribute to the fight against climate change on a global scale.

To address issues as such, an annual EU-Israel Seminar is held, to bring together policymakers, experts, and civil society representatives to analyze pressing issues of common interest in Israel and the European Union, as well as discuss areas and means to deepen the cooperation. The 7th annual EU-Israel Seminar will promote a forum for discussions on major climate and environmental challenges, opportunities, and policy actions. Building on the perspectives of speakers from Europe, Israel, and the Middle East, the seminar will analyze these issues, and identify avenues for cooperation toward the green transition.

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The working language is English. All indicated times refer to Israel Standard Time (IST)

DAY 1: Saturday, 5 November 2022

Location: The Carlton Hotel, Eliezer Peri St 10, Tel Aviv-Yafo, Israel

19.30-20.00 Gathering and Registration

20.00: Kick-off Dinner

The closed-door opening dinner aims to introduce the main debates on climate policies in Europe, Israel, and the Middle East more broadly. The discussion touches upon the role of the EU in supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation policies in the region, the state of the cooperation between the EU and Israel, and how such cooperation has recently been influenced by the European Green Deal.

Greetings:

- **Prof. Manuel Trajtenberg**, Executive Director of Tel Aviv University's Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)
- **Dr. Maria Maltschnig**, Director, Renner Institut

Keynote speaker:

- **Mr. Isaac Herzog**, President of Israel (**Remote Speech**)
- **Mr. Jean-Marc Ayrault**, Former Prime Minister of France (**TBC**)

Moderated by:

- **Dr. Oded Eran**, Senior research fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies and former ambassador to the European Union and Jordan

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DAY 2: Sunday, 6 November 2022

Location: The Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)

40 Haim Levanon St., Tel Aviv 6997556 Israel

09.30-10.00 Greetings and welcoming of participants

09.30-10.00 Opening Remarks

- **Dr. László Andor**, Secretary General, Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS)
- **Dr. Shira Efron**, director of research at Israel Policy Forum, a senior research fellow, and head of the Climate Change & National Security Program at the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)
- **Marie Schroeter**, FES Israel
- **Mr. Dimiter Tzantchev**, Ambassador of the European Union to Israel (TBC)

Moderation by:

- **Dr. Roby Nathanson**, Director, Macro Center for Political Economics

10.00-11.30 Session I

Climate challenges and policy measures in Europe and Israel: In the light of the European Green Deal

This session will introduce the European approach toward climate change, elaborating on the actions done on their behalf to combat its effects and the Israeli approach.

Keynote speakers – European Perspective:

- **Mr. Frank Siebern-Thomas**, Head of Unit, DG EMPL, Fair Green and Digital Transitions, Research
- **Mr Mohammed Chahim**, Member of the European Parliament

Keynote speakers – Israeli Perspective:

- **MK Prof. Alon Tal**, Member of the Knesset (Hamachane Hamamlachti party) and Chair of The Knesset Subcommittee for Climate, Environment & Health. Founder of Adam Teva V'din Assoc. and The Arava Institute for Environmental Studies
- **Dr. Ro'ee Levy**, Lecturer (assistant professor) at the Tel Aviv University School of Economics

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Moderation by:

- **Dr. Aline Burni**, Policy Analyst on International Relations, Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS)

11.30-11.45 Coffee Break

11.45-13.00 Session II

Climate challenges and policy responses in the Middle East: New Opportunities for Regional cooperation

This session aims to present the actions the Middle East region is taking to face the climatic changes affecting the region, in response to the Europeans, based on the European green deal, and to discuss new opportunities for regional cooperation.

Keynote speakers:

- **Amb. Daniel Shek**, Member of the Board of the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, Former Israeli Ambassador to France
- **Mr. Yuval Lester**, VP of Planning, Policy, and Strategy, Ministry of Environmental Protection of Israel
- **Mrs. Dina Fakoussa**, Senior MENA Analyst and Consultant, Associate Fellow and Former Head of Program, Middle East and North Africa Program, German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP)
- **Dr. Annalisa Perteghella**, Senior Policy Advisor for the Diplomacy & Foreign Policy and Resilience & Development programs at ECCO

Moderation by:

- **Dr. Shira Efron**, director of research at Israel Policy Forum, a senior research fellow, and head of the Climate Change & National Security Program at the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)

13.15-14.15 Light Buffet Lunch

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14.15-15.45 Session III

The role of Europe and its institutions: Promoting regional cooperation on water, energy, and food security

This session aims to promote a discussion on regional cooperation opportunities in the Middle East, emphasizing water, energy, and food security, with Europe acting as a mediator. Exchanging knowledge between the EU and Israel and understanding how the EU could serve as a mediation channel for collaboration between Israel and other countries in the region.

Keynote speaker:

- **Dr. Dov Khenin**, Tel Aviv University, Chairman of the Israeli Climate Forum initiated by the Israeli President, Former chairman of the environmental caucus of the Knesset
- **Mrs. Elena Yoncheva**, Member of the European Parliament, Vice-Chair of the delegation for relations with Israel
- **Prof. Maciej Gdula**, Member of Parliament, Poland

Moderation by:

- **Dr. László Andor**, Secretary General, Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS)

15:45-16.15 Summaries and Farewell Greetings

- **Dr. Oded Eran**, Senior research fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies and former ambassador to the European Union and Jordan
- **Dr. Roby Nathanson**, Director, Macro Center for Political Economics
- **Dr. Paul Pasch**, Director of the FES Israel

16:15-16.30 Concluding Remarks

- **Dr. Alfred Gusenbauer**, Former Chancellor of Austria

16.30 End of Programme

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