

## EU-Israel Agreement

This section contains summaries of the main agreements between by the EU and Israel:

- ★ The Association Agreement
- ★ The Scientific and Technical Cooperation Agreement
- ★ The Public Procurement Agreements.
- ★ Agreement on Good Laboratory Practice



The EU-Israel "Association Agreement" was signed in Brussels, on 20 November 1995, and following ratification by the 15 Member States parliaments, the European Parliament and the Knesset, entered force on 1 June, 2000. It replaces the earlier Cooperation Agreement of 1975.

### ★ Summary of Main Features

The main features of the agreement include regular political dialogue, provisions on freedom of establishment and liberalisation of services, the free movement of capital and competition rules, the strengthening of economic cooperation on the widest possible basis and cooperation on social matters, supplemented by cultural cooperation. An Association Council is foreseen which will meet once a year at ministerial level. This is to be supported by an Association Committee has also been set up, with responsibility for implementing the Agreement. The Agreement reinforces the arrangements for trade in industrial products which have been in force since the late 1970s.

### ★ Preamble

In line with the new generation of Association Agreements between the EU and its Mediterranean partners, the **preamble** emphasises the importance of the principles of the United Nations Charter, particularly observance of human rights, democratic principles and economic freedom; the need to strengthen political

stability and economic development of the region through the encouragement of regional co-operation; the need to open a regular political dialogue in bilateral and international contexts on issues of common interest; the need to maintain a dialogue on scientific, technological, cultural, audio-visual and social matters to the benefit of both parties; the respect for human rights and democratic principles guides the internal and international policy of both Israel and the Community and constitutes an essential and positive element of the Agreement. At Israel's request, there is a Joint Declaration on the importance both parties attach to the struggle against xenophobia, antisemitism and racism.



#### Main Text

The main text refers to regular political dialogue at ministerial and senior official levels, and at parliamentary level through contacts between the European Parliament and the Knesset. Emphasis is placed on peace, security and regional cooperation and on the need to contribute to the stability and prosperity of the Mediterranean region and to promote understanding and tolerance. Regarding free movement of goods, the Agreement confirms the existence of free trade in manufactured goods. The rules of origin for Israeli products are more flexible in the new agreement than there were under the 1975 Cooperation Agreement. There is to be progressive and reciprocal liberalisation of trade agricultural products and extension of precedent concessions on a reciprocal basis. Discussions on further concessions began in 2000.

Other areas of cooperation covered by the Agreement include the agreement to negotiate for:

- the further liberalisation of right of establishment of firms; - the freedom of all restrictions on capital movement;
- transparency in state aid and adjustment in state monopolies; - intellectual, industrial and commercial property rights will be in accordance with highest international standards; there will be economic cooperation in certain areas of mutual interest: regional, industrial, agricultural, standards, financial services, customs, environment, energy, information and telecommunications, transport, tourism, approximation of laws, drugs and money laundering, migration;
- co-productions in the press and audio-visual media and associating Israeli with Community initiatives; there will be cooperation in the cultural sphere for better mutual understanding of respective cultures, promotion of youth exchanges, exchanges between universities and other educational establishments and language training;

- activities of mutual interest will be promoted in the information and communications field.

### **Cooperation between States in the Region**

**Cooperation between States in the region** will be encouraged. Guidelines will be defined during the political dialogue and the two parties will encourage initiatives designed to promote cooperation between Israel, on the one hand, and other countries in the region and the West Bank and Gaza on the other. Priority areas are interconnection of energy networks, water, environment, communications infrastructure and regional networks between institutions.

### **Agreements on Scientific and Technical Cooperation Between the European Community and the State of Israel**

Israel was the first non-European country to be associated to the European Community's Framework Programme of (to erase the word) research and technical development (RTD). Israel's special status is the result of its very high level of scientific competence and the dense network of longstanding relations in scientific and technical cooperation between Israel and the EU. (to erase the sentence). Israel first entered the Fourth Framework programme in August 1996. On 8 March 1999, the "Second Agreement for Scientific and Technical Cooperation between the European Community and Israel" came into force. This agreement "fully" Associated Israel with the 5th Framework programme for Community RTD (1999-2002). For comprehensive information on EU-Israel cooperation in Science and Technology visit the [Scientific Section](#)

### **Agreements on Procurement by Telecommunications Operators and on Government Procurement**

The EC and Israel were participants in the negotiations which led to the WTO's new Government Procurement Agreement (GPA). However, Israel delayed ratification pending an expansion of coverage to include access to procurement tenders for

telecommunications equipment in the EU. As part of the negotiations toward an EU-Israel Association Agreement, both parties reaffirmed their commitment to mutually open their respective procurement markets. Subsequent negotiations were completed on 22 December 1995 resulting in two draft agreements and Israel's ratification of the GPA prior to its entry into force on 1 January 1996.

The Agreement covers government procurement complementing and broadening the scope of commitments under the GPA. It represents real progress in the EU's goal to continue to open up public procurement markets beyond what has already been achieved in the GPA. Israel will be committed to further market opening in urban transport, services, medical equipment and subcentral government procurement, such as municipal and state agencies.

The Agreement on telecommunications procurement is purely bilateral.

It provides for a mutual opening of procurement by telecommunications operators through granting an exchange of national treatment. In Israel a price preference provision of 15% in favour of Israeli products will not apply against EC bidders. In the EU the provisions of Article 36 of the Utilities Directive (93/38 EEC) will not be applied against tenders comprising products of Israeli origin.

The two Agreements build on the close political and economic relationship established between Israel and the EU under the Association Agreement thus making a concrete contribution to the region's economic development and political stabilisation. Hopefully their conclusion will send a positive message to the ongoing GATS negotiations in particular those in the field of telecommunications services and government procurement. The two Agreements came into force on 1 August 1997.

The full text of the agreements can be found in the *Official Journal of the European Communities L202* of 30 July 1997



The agreement provides for the reciprocal acceptance, under certain conditions, of safety studies on chemicals and related data

provided by the test facilities of the other party. These studies and data are used for the administrative procedures required to authorise the placing on the market of cosmetics, industrial chemicals, pharmaceuticals, food additives, animal feed additives and pesticides. The agreement therefore reduces the cost and time involved in experiments on chemicals and facilitates market access.

The agreement was signed on 26.7.99 and came into force on 1.5.2000