

## **Declaration of the EU-Israel Business Dialogue**

### **Presented to the EU Commission and the Israeli Government**

On the occasion of this meeting in Jerusalem on 22-23 of June 2011, the EU-Israel Business Dialogue (EUIBD), a forum of some 50 business leaders from leading European and Israeli firms, expresses the views of the business community regarding the future of the bilateral economic relations between both sides.

The business leaders from the European Union (EU) and Israel stand united at this important era of bilateral cooperation in face of old and new challenges. Apart from being such an important collaboration, the EU-Israel business cooperation is based on long considerable historic ties. In order to ensure that this alliance not only continues but also broadens and flourishes, we have to keep in mind that further enhancement and support is required, as this is the ideal path towards reaching the entire potential of our economic ties.

Therefore, we urge our governments to pursue along with the private sector every possible aspect that can promote development and economic growth:

- The EUIBD calls business leaders and governments from the EU and Israel to further engage in mutual investment encouraging activities.
- The EUIBD calls on the European private sector to have a stronger presence in Israel.
- The EUIBD believes that in the current age of border-crossing cooperation, economic alliances can and should provide a solid ground for mutual understanding and reconciliation. It is therefore important to keep political issues separate from economic issues, and to aspire for a business environment that fosters stronger cooperation in all fields.
- The EUIBD calls the European Parliament to ratify the ACAA agreement on Good Manufacturing Practice of pharmaceutical products. Failing to do so will send a negative message and will delay other initiatives for the deepening of EU-Israel economic relations.
- In the long term perspective, the EUIBD calls to pursue mutual recognition of conformity assessment agreements. Such agreements and certification would be of particular importance to small and medium-sized enterprises in both parties.
- The EUIBD calls for reciprocal but flexible commitment to negotiate the Rules of Origin in the Association Agreement, with the objective of simplifying the procedures for exporters and facilitating trade.



EU-ISRAEL  
BUSINESS DIALOGUE

- The EUIBD calls for intensified bilateral efforts in order to achieve open services markets and encourage a progressively bilateral EU–Israeli liberalization of trade in services. This should take place with respect to the private sector’s interest and adherence to the principle of non-discrimination, mutual recognition of professional qualifications and the importance of greater regulatory transparency on trade in services. The EUIBD calls upon the EU and Israel to submit their proposals as soon as possible.
- The EUIBD recommends launching an ongoing consultation that focuses on developing better appreciation of procurement practices and jurisdictional issues in each party. This consultation should represent an apparatus to fairly implement the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement.
- Encouraged by the exciting fruits of cooperation in the FP7, Eureka, and other bilateral programs, the EUIBD calls for further encouragement of bilateral cooperation in the field of innovation and entrepreneurship, for they are the fundamental infrastructure for the jobs of tomorrow and a key in our efforts to assure development and growth.
- The EUIBD calls for the ratification of the Protocol for accession of Israel to European programs. The EUIBD calls for the participation of Israeli entities in the various EU agencies.

Endorsed unanimously by the participants of the EU-Israel Dialogue (List attached herewith) on June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2011, Jerusalem.