



Delegation of the European Union to the State of Israel
משלחת האיחוד האירופי למדינת ישראל | وفد الاتحاد الأوروبي إلى دولة إسرائيل

Research and Innovation Section

Climate Policy Forum Innovation and Green Technologies for the European Green Deal 25 June 2020

Conference Report¹

Climate Policy Forum: Innovation and Green Technologies for the European Green Deal - hosted and supported by European Commission, ISERD and EIT Hub Israel - Tel Aviv Stock Exchange and virtual attendance

Introduction and context

On 25 June the European Commission **gathered almost 800 people** (in person and on-line) under the framework of the **Climate Policy Forum²** – a high-level, interactive event with the aim of **exploring EU / Israeli climate-focused priorities and collaboration opportunities**. The event took place in the context of the global health pandemic and the European Green Deal, with a new momentum **for climate action, climate diplomacy and climate investment**.

The highly innovative nature of the Forum generated **significant global interest** with almost 7,500 visits to the Forum's website and engagement from an international community including Israel, Portugal, Italy, Ireland, Turkey, Greece, India, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, France and Kazakhstan. Of the 38 speakers, 26 took part remotely, illustrating the fundamental role of digitalisation in connecting global actors.

The Forum provided a timely and unique opportunity to reflect on the **pressing need for the world to accelerate climate action efforts, supporting a global 'green recovery', underpinned by the twin transition objectives of energy and technology**. The Green Deal's geopolitical role raises further the importance of science / climate diplomacy and the role it plays in strengthening EU / international relations. The event allowed for focused discussion on how the EU and Israel can maximise cooperation to respond to this challenge by harnessing innovation and green technologies.

The UN's Sustainable Development Goals and related commitments under the Paris Agreement offered a connecting 'thread' throughout the event. Across all sessions and discussions, speakers referred to the **Green Deal commitment of no net emissions from greenhouse gases by 2050**, in the context of decoupling economic growth from resource use. Specific themes throughout the event centred on EU and Israeli climate policy developments, focusing on significant common ground to stimulate further collaboration opportunities generated through the Green Deal and Horizon 2020³. Discussions emphasised **the**

¹ This report was prepared by Alison Hunter EPPC and Luca Polizzi R&I Section EU Delegation to Israel

² A recording of the event is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L9J1t-8QXWA>

³ With over one third of its funding committed to climate-related research and innovation.



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importance of green energy technologies, new approaches to climate investment and the role of innovation in generating a new momentum towards climate goals and diplomacy.

High level speakers included Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth; Gila Gamliel – Israel’s Minister of Environmental Protection; Izhar Shay – Israel’s Minister of Science and Technology and Chemi Peres of the Peres Centre for Peace and Innovation.

Participants and speakers spanned all communities of interest – public policy, industry, citizens, science and research - with strong engagement from actors across many sectors including finance / investment, agriculture, energy, transport and tourism. This provided a resounding endorsement that **climate action and dealing with the health pandemic require holistic responses**, which involve all parts of society.

By bringing together policy makers, innovators, scientists and representatives of civil society to discuss current EU and Israel climate policy developments, the Forum generated a renewed impetus upon which shared learning, collaboration and commitments can be further strengthened. The event was supported by a highly creative format, conducted over 3 separate spaces allowing for dynamic exchange and moderated by in-person and on-line moderators. Several sessions were delivered in parallel, allowing participants to maximise their access to the varied discussions and exchanges, and to share ideas and learning on innovation-focused climate solutions.

The **Main Stage** of the event saw a combination of key note speeches, panel discussions and audience polls through combined online sessions and in-presence interventions. Speakers spanned a wide range of perspectives and expertise across the climate agenda, allowing for a depth debate on climate policies and the role of research and innovation (R&I) in enabling collaborative responses to green technologies, new approaches to sustainable investment and deepening joint EU / Israeli responses to addressing zero-net emission ambitions.

The online **Startup Pavilion** provided an interactive space for EU and Israeli start-ups to explore European Green Deal topics. Each start-up delivered a short TED style talk about technology and innovation, with judges selecting ‘winners’ (one EU and one Israeli start-up) to pitch on the Main Stage during the concluding session.

The online **Horizon 2020 Training Room** – delivered in Hebrew for the domestic audience - focused on practical aspects of Horizon 2020 and allowed for tailored discussions concerning funding opportunities, statistics, tips and best practices about the programme.

Key messages

The rich discussions and exchanges over the course of the Forum offered a new impetus and direction for joint EU / Israeli cooperation, underpinned by an evolving global context where climate action has become a critical priority. Key ‘takeaways’ from the Forum included:

- **The EU’s proposed financial recovery package offers a strategic response to the global health pandemic, driven by the new growth strategy - the Green Deal - and its 2050 climate neutrality goal**



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- **Our global interconnectedness has been reinforced by the crisis, which requires an holistic response to protect the ‘health’ of our economies, our citizens and our societies**
- **Israel’s pathfinder role in addressing climate-related challenges offers significant scope for further global exchange – with EU/ Israeli R&I cooperation at the core of this effort**
- **The Green Deal’s international dimension offers a new momentum for global collaboration on climate action**
- **The Green Deal’s R&I priorities provide a ‘compass’ in supporting transitions to a new age of climate action, supported by the whole spectrum of global R&I ecosystems**
- **The EU’s R&I agenda is increasing its international ‘reach’ to embrace climate change challenges and opportunities, through new and enhanced instruments, agencies and investments**
- **Industry – and especially the high-tech sector - must be supported to play a stronger role in embracing climate change action**
- **The EU’s green investment agenda is driving a new direction for international funding leverage, managing risk and smoothing the way for private sector investment**

Introductory remarks and scene-setting

Ambassador Emanuele Giaufret opened the Forum with a number of key remarks, which set the agenda for both the immense, global challenge and opportunity as a consequence of the health crisis and the urgent need to accelerate international efforts for climate action. He positioned the European **Green Deal as a programme to ‘break the nexus’ between resource use and economic growth**, emphasising that economic growth and sustainability must go hand-in-hand. The Ambassador noted that the Green Deal can leverage a new approach to sustainable economic growth, underpinned by job creation, innovation and opportunities for citizens and businesses alike. This effort strongly reconfirms the EU-wide commitment to generating an **holistic response to a “green, digital and resilient” recovery**. With Europe’s ‘share’ of global emissions at 9%, there is an imperative for strong international collaboration - **Europe cannot do this alone**. The close relations enjoyed by the EU and Israel are a catalyst for further action to create a **‘win-win’ for climate-focused innovation scale-up**.

Chemi Peres of the Peres Centre for Peace and Innovation emphasised the Green Deal’s science and technology-driven focus, citing **the catalysing role of digitalisation through the health crisis** in keeping people ‘connected’ and using complex data to better understand the nature of the virus. He called for a clear, outcomes-driven focus to the Green Deal and stated that Israel remains a strong partner in developing new technologies.

The remainder of this report summarises the key areas of discussion generated across the two sessions – Climate Policy and Research and Innovation.



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Climate Policy Session

Opening this session, **Israeli Minister Gila Gamliel** and **Diederik Samson** of the **European Commission** both made the case for the role of innovation in Climate Policy, pointing to:

- The need to **‘rethink, reform and rebuild’** in the current context where ‘disruption breeds innovation’ – reducing GHG emissions and investing in ecosystem responses sets out the ‘road’ for an Israeli response to the Green Deal
- The **reputation and capacity of Israeli start-ups** to lead the way, globally, towards a clean technology transition
- The **Covid crisis as an accelerator to delivering the Green Deal**, positioning innovation higher in the EU’s agenda than ever before
- The **EU’s proposed Recovery Package contains important upgrades to programmes and instruments** which will support this innovation drive, including InvestEU, Horizon 2020 and the Innovation Fund - all connected to Green Deal ambitions

Keynotes speeches followed, the first of which was delivered by **Clara de la Torre** of the **European Commission**. Her intervention provided further insights into the **international dimension of carbon neutrality** and the need for an holistic response to climate action. The highly connected nature of climate and digital transformations was noted, with the **EU’s New Generation EU package of €750 billion supporting Europe to get ‘back in its feet’**. Furthermore, the international dimension to the Green Deal was emphasised in its capacity to embrace **open solidarity, open and fair trade and multi-lateralism**. The pursuit of common solutions to global problems was strongly emphasised.

Sinaia Netanyahu, formerly of the Israeli Ministry of Environmental Protection, focused on ‘connecting the dots’ and ‘closing the gaps’ in how we address the climate crisis. Noting the need for an inter-sectoral effort, she stressed the need to **create synergies in meeting Paris Agreement and SDG goals**. The Green Deal, she stated, ‘reflects this understanding’. She went on to emphasise the **need for inter-ministerial working at the domestic level to coordinate actions** (e.g. in areas such as tax, innovation incentives and sectoral reform) while avoiding contradictory measures. The current context, however, with significant economic uncertainty, has created stronger risk-aversity, making long-term, decisive action towards climate change more difficult. Furthermore, designing economic responses must be undertaken with the knowledge that our children and young people bear the impact of our policy choices.

Panel Session – EU and Israel Climate Policy Developments: The European Green Deal and the Power of Climate Diplomacy

This session explored the strategic ambition for Israeli and EU climate priorities and set out significant opportunities for climate collaboration and diplomacy. High level panellists were drawn from the **European Commission, the Israeli Government and EcoPeace Middle East**. The panel drew on actions, goals and good practice examples of EU / Israeli (and beyond) cooperation efforts to drive greater capacity, **delivering on the EU’s global climate diplomacy efforts and generating further progress towards Israel’s ‘green resilience’**. Furthermore, these efforts make a **significant contribution to regional security**, promoting collaboration as a means to addressing water and energy security. Key messages from this session included:



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- The **role of climate diplomacy** in addressing global CO2 emissions – with Israel's scientific leadership in water management, this can become a focus of cooperation and a **source of systemic and lasting engagement in international relations**
- The Israeli Government adopted in 2018 a "**National Climate Change Adaptation Program**" underpinned by 5 key objectives:
 - Protecting people and property by prioritising safety, public health and building economic resilience
 - Increasing the resilience of natural systems, so preserving and restoring biodiversity and ecosystem services for example, in preserving open spaces and ecological corridors. This is done through legislation, regulation economic and planning tools
 - Building and strengthening the scientific knowledge base in all relevant fields of decision-making, and adopting an approach to ensure global, EU and local cooperation
 - Enhancing education, increasing awareness and knowledge accessibility
 - Promoting green technologies to deal with climate change, while mainstreaming approaches to retaining public health and biodiversity
- The **phasing out of Israeli coal plants** creates a new impetus for the “ramping up” of renewable energy, in line with climate needs and market direction. **Exemplary cooperation efforts** can be seen in the East Med Gas Forum, already setting strong foundations for further energy-focused cooperation efforts (e.g. in solar powered hydrogen production). **The Green Deal can accelerate efforts to work towards a future-proofed energy security**
- Israeli leadership in manufacturing water offers a strong example of climate adaptation:
 - Joint EU / Israeli climate diplomacy presents an opportunity to work together for **region-wide water and energy security**, building healthy interdependencies and long- term stability (for example) in the Levant.
 - EcoPeace with German and Swedish government support is promoting the creation of an Israeli / Jordanian / Palestinian desalinated water and solar energy exchange
 - These efforts are accompanied by predicted large-scale benefits such as reduced GHG emissions, reduced local air pollution and reduced pressure on freshwater aquatic ecosystems. In addition, this can bring wider benefits to energy security and enhanced international standing for cooperation efforts in the region.

Research and Innovation Session (1 part)

This session was opened by **Mariya Gabriel, the EU's Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth**. The Commissioner emphasised the required holistic nature of the global recovery to generate an environmental, economic and societal revival. She noted that the **European Green Deal offers a collaborative policy direction for solutions driven by sustainable innovation and green technologies**. Climate action is strongly positioned at the



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core of this effort to create new growth and job opportunities. She reminded the audience that European Commission president, Ursula von der Leyen, has made climate change a top priority, recognising that **'the Green Deal will not be achieved by Europe acting alone'**. Accelerating the transition towards zero-net emissions in sectors such as energy, mobility, and construction will require strong, strategic collaborations with global partners. Furthermore, **civil society engagement will promote climate resilience and prosperity**, with healthier people, more sustainable agri-food systems and biodiversity preservation. With growing synergies between EU/ Israeli priority sectors (e.g. trade, open sky, energy, climate and research and innovation) the momentum towards scaled-up innovation ecosystems is very strong. **More Israeli companies are scaling up in Europe and more European businesses are investing in and taking up Israeli technologies.**

Izhar Shay, Israel's Minister of Science and Technology commenced his intervention by stressing the significance of the Green Deal to Israel. Coming from a venture capital background, the Minister noted that he was acutely aware of, and committed to Israeli actions which will boost its climate action efforts. By way of example, **Israel is home to around 250 clean-tech companies**, some with an **international presence and profile**. Ambitions linked to zero energy goals can be clearly illustrated by 2 examples - a city courthouse which is almost completed and a kindergarten have demonstrated a leading approach to 'near zero' energy design through solar power – which signal the **Israeli Government's ambition to work towards a 'greener and cleaner world'**.

Signe Ratso, Deputy Director General at DG R&I played a discussant role in the keynote speeches which followed. **Hanneke Faber, Global President Food and Refreshments with UNILEVER** emphasised that the **Green Deal is good for both 'planet and business'**. While UNILEVER has adopted new climate commitments to 2039, it can also point to 'farm to fork' commitments which were published 11 years before the Paris Agreement. Stressing the company's continued innovation efforts towards the generation of a circular economy, Ms Faber stated: 'plastic doesn't belong in forests or oceans' and pointed to a number of recent innovative upgrades (for example) in how toothbrushes and soup packaging are created. There remains a **challenge in creating sufficient supplies and affordable cost for recycled plastics**. In conclusion, she noted that it is imperative for businesses to act if they are to survive.

She was followed by **Martin Kern, Director of EIT** who illustrated the EIT's very broad commitment to climate action. With the recent set-up of the **EIT Hub in Israel**, this has opened up very significant opportunities for deeper innovation-focused collaboration with the EU. By way of example of the work of the EIT, Mr Kern pointed to the success of two 'unicorn' status EU companies, both supported by the EIT:

- the **Swedish company, Northvolt, which develops the 'world's greenest batteries'** is supported by EIT InnoEnergy. The market-driven orientation of this company is evidenced by its private sector investment
- the EIT's Climate KIC has worked with the disruptive aviation start-up Lillium which has **pioneered a new approach to vertical take-off and landing**



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With a proposed expansion of the EIT's mandate and associated budget under the Green Deal, the agency is set to enhance its outreach function to areas with less innovation capacity and to develop a new EIT in Creative and Cultural Industries.

Tasos Kentarchos of DG R&I introduced the next Forum session on the **upcoming €3 billion Horizon budget for a Green Deal call - 'building a low-carbon, climate-resilient future'**. He set out a clear vision for how the EU's R&I agenda offers a 'compass' for green transition, noting the added value of EU R&I in demonstrating and piloting innovation solutions, at scale. He alluded to the very important **role played by social and institutional innovation** - especially to **boost 'citizen empowerment'** - in supporting behavioural change, and how this sits at the heart of the call. There will be 10 areas under the Green Deal Horizon call, of which, 3 were discussed in parallel sessions during the Forum – **Energy Transition, Sustainable Agriculture and Smart Mobility**.

Key messages to emerge from these parallel sessions include:

- We need more R&I to deliver **energy transition** with the aims of decarbonising the sector, making energy affordable and optimising security of supply. Providing the right evidence for informed decision making is critical. For example, new concepts such as hydrogen independent valleys may lead the future of the second generation of our energy grids. With the **very significant investments needed to support energy transition** (including demonstration facilities and projects) the EIB is playing a significant role in boosting energy transition financing
- **Sustainable agriculture** is a key component of the EU's Green Deal ambition and R&I will be instrumental in finding new solutions which will be good for the planet but also for industry. This is a very promising area of R&I EU-Israeli cooperation, and is underpinned by a new multi-disciplinary and technologies-driven focus, recognising the **role to be played by an ecosystem effort**. With a clear appreciation that 'no one player has all the answers' an **emerging platform orientation** is being created for multiple actors to combine efforts for joint solutions. It was also emphasised that **new and strengthened communications across the international scientific community** are needed to accelerate efforts
- **Smart mobility** is at the core of several initiatives to make our cities greener, while disruptive innovation and new paradigms will help to drive how such ambitious goals are achieved. Ongoing cooperation between the EU and Israel can open up new opportunities in this direction. With **Green Deal goals for transport to become 'drastically less polluting'**, there is a need to radically reduce transport-related GHG-emissions, underpinned by R&I technologies. The Call promotes holistic solutions linked to the **priority area of green airports and ports** (given their global trading importance and inter-connecting roles across wider transport networks).
- Across all areas, **civil society engagement** is imperative in supporting the transition toward a carbon neutral future

The Horizon Green Deal Call parallel sessions were followed by a virtual meeting with **DG R&I's Director-General, Jean-Eric Paquet**. He noted the clear **geopolitical focus of the EU's Green Deal**, given the global reach of the climate challenge, as well as the existing, collaborative efforts already in place with partners like Israel. Pointing to examples of Israeli / EU R&I



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cooperation, Mr Paquet stated that – **under H2020 - Israeli organisations had been awarded funding for 30 climate change and environmental-related projects**. He highlighted the significance of such collaboration through some key insights into the **ECO-POTENTIAL project** which has created environmental observation products and services, providing data about the state and trends of different ecosystems found in protected areas. The project has played a crucial role in **conserving biodiversity and mitigating the impacts of climate change** and has supported efforts to protect the unique biodiversity profile of the central **Negev Highlands** – a territory which experiences extreme environmental conditions due to temperate and water stresses. This underlines the importance of **‘global challenges requiring a global response’**.

Mr Paquet went on to outline the rationale behind the set-up of the **EU’s EIC which is creating a new direction in consolidating the joint efforts of excellent EU research and industry**, to boost a new generation of European companies. Still in its pilot phase, the EIC has a **proposed budget of €10 billion under Horizon Europe**, making it the most ambitious EU initiative ever for disruptive and breakthrough innovation. He outlined the **ambition for the EIC to become Europe’s ‘unicorn factory’** - a ‘one-stop shop’ for innovators, start-ups and highly innovative SMEs, covering early advanced research, commercialisation and scale-up phases. With a dedicated €300 million EIC Accelerator ‘Green Deal’ call for funding innovative ‘green’ projects already launched, Mr Paquet underlined the existing success of EU / Israeli R&I collaboration by citing that **Israeli entities have already experienced successful participation in EIC Accelerator calls**.

Research and Innovation Session (2 part)

The global recovery from the health pandemic must be underpinned by a **green, digitalised and inclusive approach**. Climate investment is a critical part of this agenda, underpinned by a **smarter and greener orientation to financing the recovery**. Industry must champion this effort, ensuring a **market-led recovery**, and boosting capacity for, and uptake of, green technologies. Across the EU, this is intrinsically linked to industrial transition ambitions. There are many challenges and opportunities here, such as addressing the **green infrastructure investment gap** and accelerating the EU’s investment toolkit for climate finance (including EIB, EIF and InvestEU mechanisms). In turn, this is creating a new momentum for upgrading the ways in which our global innovation communities work together – across science, research, investment and industry.

Keynotes speeches– from **MEP Eva Kaili** and **Jean-David Malo of the DG R&I’s EIC Taskforce** reinforced to need to boost all efforts in shaping a **stronger pathway for ‘green investment’**. This was very much aligned to the overall session focus: **‘Green Recovery, Integration Models and New Frontiers for Blended Finance’**.

Key messages included:

- The EU faces a number of challenges in accelerating progress towards climate transition. These include:
 - the difficulties EU firms face when moving from start-up to scale-up;
 - adopting a more **coherent and holistic approach to ‘city greening’** as opposed to a more limited focus on the greening of urban infrastructures;



- addressing **food and environmental security**
 - The **opportunity cost of ‘playing the green card’** (i.e. superficial / low-level attempts to demonstrate greening efforts and investments)
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- The EU’s proposed commitment to reinforce Covid recovery through the Green Deal – and the very significant financial commitments which underpin this – create strong building blocks for climate-oriented global standards. These **require global reciprocity if global targets for climate action are to be addressed**
 - The EU’s green innovation agenda requires a ‘game-changing’ leap to facilitate the development and uptake of climate-oriented and deep technologies – the recent financial proposals for a green recovery are very much aligned to this need
 - While the EIC is still in pilot mode, there is clear, emerging evidence of its added value in number of key areas which are strongly aligned to a climate-resilient transformation – support to visionary entrepreneurs has been significantly boosted by (for example) the launch of a **dedicated €300 million EIC Accelerator ‘green deal projects’ call**, with the aim of transforming innovation to jobs and growth. With the call launched in May, results will be announced in July
 - The EIC is breaking new ground in supporting the EU’s capacity for new, emerging technologies by adopting a **blended finance orientation, including equity investments**, especially when the market does not provide the required support for ‘risky’ innovators. For example, by investing in quantum technologies, this supports the development of climate change mitigation innovations
 - **Beyond the EIC’s pilot phase, there is a need to ‘install’ and embed it into the EU’s innovation system** (for example, in aligning efforts with the EIT, ERC and national R&I agencies) – by adopting both a ‘top-down’ and bottom-up’ approach, the EIC can adopt a strong ‘innovation connectivity’ stance, thus leveraging innovation efforts and investments across the green technologies landscape, both within and beyond the EU

The Panel session which followed benefited from the insights of 4 green technologies and investment specialists. These experts from the **venture capital field, an Israeli start-up and the EU’s EIT community** discussed ‘what works’ to address the challenges and opportunities that many high-tech, climate-oriented start-ups experience when they are seeking to scale up their efforts. Among the key messages from the session were the following points:

- One of the greatest challenges innovation entrepreneurs face is to **translate ‘great ideas’ into market solutions, on time and at scale**. This was also referred to as a time and investment gap between the value proposition and ‘when R&I can be realised’ – a phase of activity which is deemed to be highly risky to the investment community
- Furthermore, there is growing awareness of a **capacity / expertise void in the investment community** in determining what is the specific innovation that requires investment to make a transformative impact
- There is a **critical role which public financing plays** in supporting this by adopting a **‘first-mover’ public investment stance** to set a direction for others to follow. This is important, for example, when addressing the needs of ‘place-based portfolios’ (e.g. in cities / regions, where physical and spatial portfolios connect wider actions and



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solutions). Furthermore, this approach to investment generates **momentum for both community engagement and uptake of solutions**. A ‘de-risked’ approach also offers a **demand-side stimulus for private sector co-funding** and can smooth the way in dealing with stranded investment

Climate Policy Forum concluding remarks

For this session, **Jean-Eric Paquet, Director-General with DG R&I** was joined by **Daniela Jacob** of the **Climate Service Centre** and **Ami Appelbaum** of **Israel’s Innovation Authority** to provide reflections on the Forum’s main themes and discussions. Key messages from each are summarised below:

Daniela Jacob focused her remarks on core principles and conditions which support the acceleration of green technologies:

- Demonstrators play a critical role within an enabling environment, underpinned by related skills and capacities and a coherent approach to project management
- Climate action goals can also be considered in the context of:
 - **Regenerating communications and social infrastructure**
 - **Restoring nature and ecosystems**
 - **Rethinking water management**
 - **Reviving sustainable food systems**
- By building communities of support and engagement, this sets the foundations for scaling up efforts beyond Europe

Jean-Eric Paquet focused his remarks on the importance of holistic, ecosystem responses to addressing Green Deal goals:

- **Delivery of the EU’s Green Deal goals will require deep cooperation, underpinned by global efforts** – accelerated collaborations between (for example) the EU and Israel will be critical to achieving this
- The Green Deal offers a **‘strategic compass’ in bringing together the whole innovation community to generate the right investments**
- Next steps to creating the ‘green transformation’ we require will be supported by a number of key **enablers including legislation, innovation ‘pipelines’ and toolboxes**

Ami Abbelbaum offered key R&I insights for accelerating climate policy:

- The need to bring together all actors to embrace a ‘Green Deal global effort’ also requires **strong efforts towards deregulation**
- **Israel has acted as a ‘pioneer’ in many areas of climate action**, such as sewage treatment, waste water management, desalination, adopting alternative energy sources and smart agriculture



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- Israel's 'innovation lab' approach encourages experimentation which includes key efforts in areas such as: working with **early-stage start-ups and new technologies, smart cities and advanced construction technologies**

The Forum concluded with the results from the Virtual Pavilion where a jury selected 2 companies – one from the EU and the other from Israel – who displayed the most innovation in their business concepts. These were:

- EU start-up winner: **Zero Foodwaste** – founded in 2018, this Dutch start-up aims to make the world's food system more sustainable through technology-applied (AI and computer vision), holistic support to the hospitality industry <https://www.zero-foodwaste.nl/>
- Israeli start-up winner: **ThermoTerra** - by using technology to harvest energy from humidity fluctuations, the start-up has worked (initially) with the construction industry – in residential and commercial spaces – to generate heating and cooling solutions <https://www.export.gov.il/catalog/cleantechcatalogue/aboutcompany/5048/0>

The **interactive audience polls** – a key feature throughout the Forum – generated a range of insights into climate action views and knowledge across the whole innovation community, from awareness of support and funds, to facts and evidence concerning climate impacts and demand for action, change and advice. Of particular importance the following key results were noted:

- **Almost 90% of participants believed that Europe and Israel should cooperate more in science and innovation**
- More than 50% felt that Israel experiences challenges in entering the EU market due to fragmentation, while more than one third felt there was poor knowledge of regulations
- Less than half were currently aware of support mechanisms available to innovators to bring their products to European markets
- While more than 40% felt that EU / Israeli science and innovation cooperation was good / excellent, some 50% felt there was scope for improvement
- **Priorities for addressing Israeli climate action were perceived to be: a new climate law (45%), more funding for R&I (almost 22%), more government support for new technologies (21%) and more venture capital support for breakthrough innovation (almost 12%)**
- More than three quarters of the audience were aware of the European Green Deal before attending the Forum and more than 50% were aware of the 20-year history of EU / Israeli cooperation in science and innovation
- More than half of participants were aware that Europe is Israel's first trading partner



Final reflections and key messages from the Forum

The rich discussions and exchanges over the course of the event revealed a number of key messages, while reigniting the enthusiasm and commitment from the EU and Israel to further enhance joint R&I cooperation efforts. The interrelated nature of the Forum's core themes - **climate action, climate diplomacy and climate investment** – allowed for a strongly reinforced message across all discussions that **climate action must be addressed at a global level and that the EU and Israel stand ready to extend and upscale their cooperation efforts.**

The Forum generated further acknowledgement and endorsement of the need to accelerate the global recovery from the health pandemic and to set in motion a new momentum towards addressing the goals of the European Green Deal – itself, a framework to support and promote climate diplomacy and the boosting of green technologies across R&I ecosystems.

The following key messages were echoed across the many discussions, key notes and panel sessions:

- **The relevance of the EU's Green Deal package and the 2050 climate neutrality goal have been accelerated by the global health pandemic.** The EU has responded to this with a proposed recovery package of €750 billion and a re-vamped multi-annual financial framework worth €1.1 trillion for the post-2020 period
- **This context has brought a sharp realisation of our global interconnectedness** – how we act and interact on a day-to-day basis impacts on the 'health' of our planet, our economies, our citizens and our societies. Therefore sustainability, environmental policies and climate-friendly solutions are good for business, citizens and nature. This resonates with the key messages which underpin the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement and the EU's Green Deal
- **Israel is playing a strong, innovation-driven, pathfinder role in addressing many climate-related challenges, with significant scope for further global exchange in learning and collaboration** – expertise in water (e.g. addressing arid / semi-arid challenges including waste water management and desalination), smart agriculture and shifts towards energy transition all demonstrate the further potential for EU / Israeli R&I collaboration, as well as enhancing cooperation efforts with global partners, near and far
- **The Green Deal's international dimension can further strengthen global cooperation for climate action** – underpinned by principles of open solidarity, open and fair trade and multi-lateralism, the Green Deal offers a new momentum for global collaboration on climate action
- **The Green Deal's R&I priorities provide a strategic 'compass' in supporting transitions to a new age of climate action** – by bringing multiple innovation ecosystems together, a stronger 'pipeline' orientation can be generated, from early R&D through to market-ready / commercialisation stages. These ecosystems need to be supported by 'deep tech' solutions which require enhanced collaborative efforts.
- **The EU's R&I agenda is increasing its international 'reach' to embrace these challenges and opportunities.** Instruments and agencies such as the EIC, EIT (and the new Israel Hub), Horizon 2020 (and its associated Green Deal call) are supported by a



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strengthened collaboration imperative. This is underpinned by a multi-disciplinary ethos, with the aim of further connecting international innovation ecosystems.

- **There is increasing momentum and urgency for industry to embrace climate change action** - with an imperative to respond to 'demand' from both a climate and consumer perspective, industry is rising to this challenge. The EIC has a significant added value role to play in accelerating this potential, and managing the risks, of the high technology industrial sector
- **The EU's green investment agenda is driving a new direction for international funding leverage**, creating improved incentives for the global venture capital and wider investment community to engage with the Green Deal, especially through 'deep tech' solutions. Public finances play an increasingly important role as a 'first mover' to support blended financing options and managing risk, smoothing the way for private sector investment.