



THE TICKING CLOCK OF THE CLIMATE AGENDA: COOPERATION OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN THE EU AND ISRAEL TO ADVANCE THE GREEN AND DIGITAL TRANSITIONS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Annual EU Meeting of the Israeli European Policy Network (IEPN),
co-organised by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)

17-18 July 2022

Naftali Building, Tel Aviv University, Israel

Introduction

The Mediterranean region is nowadays one of the main climate change hotspots in the world, and its vast negative impacts are already triggering environmental challenges that pose significant risks for natural ecosystems but also to human well-being in both shores of the Mediterranean Sea. Against this background, the European Green Deal presents itself as the EU's new growth strategy until 2050 that puts environment and climate change at the heart of the EU domestic and external agenda. Specifically, the EU Green Deal has a strong external dimension which will be key to underpin future financial aid and external cooperation with neighbouring regions. In this context, Israel's vast energetic, natural and biodiversity potential makes the country a key partner to develop and implement sustainable solutions. Building up on this, the recently launched Agenda for the Mediterranean frames the commitment of the European Commission to mobilise up to 7 billion euros from the EU budget under the Neighbourhood, Development, and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), together with up to 30 billion in guarantee and blending schemes, on external financial aid supporting climate objectives and sustainable development in the region.

Excelling in innovation aimed at the provision of solutions for global challenges, the so-called "Start-Up Israeli nation" has nowadays more than 1.200 climate innovation enterprises and start-ups operating in strategic sectors such as sustainable agriculture and water management technologies, clean energy provision, climate-neutral transport, or smart farming. In this context, the Israeli Greentech sector offers an array of cooperation opportunities at all levels between the EU and Israel to advance the joint green and digital transitions, while transiting together to more modern, resource-efficient and competitive economies. For instance, the recently signed EU-Israeli Horizon Europe agreement is intended to boost innovation and research between both parties with the aim of advancing the sustainable development agenda in the next period 2021-2027. Moreover, the Israeli case could serve as a successful example to scale up similar joint transformations in the Mediterranean region.

However, the clock is ticking for the region to meet climate and environment-related goals of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. Countries whose economies depend mainly on oil and gas exports could be severely affected by the shift to cleaner forms of energy in the next years to come. The effects of climate change, combined with demographics, recent conflicts in the region and Europe (Ukraine), as well as subsequent trade disruptions are indisputably putting a strain on energy, water, and food security in the region, which are central to sustainable development. In this panorama, regional cooperation between the EU and Mediterranean countries, in particular with Israel, Egypt and Jordan, is crucial to achieve

In cooperation with



resource availability, efficiency, productivity and sustainability. Cooperation in these fields would also enhance regional integration and sustainable co-development while complementarily supporting the region's green transition and energy resource diversification.

In the framework of its annual EU meeting, the Israeli-European Policy Network (IEPN), in cooperation with the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), will provide a suitable platform to analyse and debate the prospects and challenges of the relations between the EU and Israel to jointly advance the green and climate agenda in the region. The event will explore the financing opportunities for Israel under the framework of the Green Deal and the New Agenda for the Mediterranean, and how a closer collaboration with the EU can therefore contribute to the improvement of Israel's climate governance. The meeting will also debate the water-food-energy needs among neighboring countries in the region, as well as the conditions and opportunities under which Israel and the EU could further collaborate to ensure human security and sustainable development in face of multiple challenges. Finally, the seminar aims at assessing the cooperation opportunities at the political, research and innovation level between both parties to advance the joint green and digital transitions, while reflecting on models for replication in the region with other countries, considering the successful example of the Greentech Israeli cluster.

PROGRAMME

Chatham House Rule Applies

SUNDAY, 17 JULY 2022

20:30

Dinner with keynote speech by

Dimitar Tzantchev, European Union's Ambassador to Israel

Moderated by

Roby Nathanson, Director, Macro Center for Political Economics and IEPN
Coordinator

Greetings:

Roger Albinyana, Managing Director, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)

Tal Sadeh, Co-President of the Israeli Association for the Study of European Integration. Senior Lecturer at the Department of Political Science, Tel Aviv University

Venue: The Blue Rooster, 10 Nissim Aloni, (Tower G Mall), Tel Aviv -Yafo

MONDAY, 18 JULY 2022

Room 527 Naftali Building, Tel-Aviv University

09:15 **Gathering and Registration**

09:45 **Opening Remarks**

Roger Albinyana, Managing Director, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)

Tal Sadeh, Co-President of the Israeli Association for the Study of European Integration. Senior Lecturer at the Department of Political Science, Tel Aviv University

10:05 **Session I – The External Dimension of the EU Green Deal: Financial Opportunities for a Stronger EU-Israel Cooperation in the Fight Against Climate Change**

Chair

Roby Nathanson, Director, Macro Center for Political Economics and IEPN Coordinator

Input statements from Israeli and EU perspectives:

Galit Cohen, Director General, Ministry of Environmental Protection of Israel

Georgeta Auktor, Research Fellow, German Development Institute (DIE) & Senior Project Manager, TUM International

First Reactions and Discussion:

Ivin Verbin, Co-Chairman of Grant Thornton Global Sustainability ESG Steering Committee

Antoine Apprioual, Programme Manager of the Sustainable Development and Regional Integration Department, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)

Coffee Break

11:35

12:00

Session II – Meeting Water-Energy-Food Needs Through Regional Cooperation in the Mediterranean Region

Chair

Roger Albinyana, Managing Director, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)

Input statements from Israeli and EU perspectives:

Noam Mozes, Head of Mariculture Division, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Israel Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Desirée Quagliarotti, Researcher, Institute for studies on the Mediterranean (ISMed), National Research Council (CNR) - Italy

First Reactions and Discussion:

Adam Schalimtzek, Head of International Relations Division, Ministry of Environmental Protection of Israel

Fatima Ezzahra Mengoub, Senior Economist, Policy Centre for the New South

Lunch Buffet

13:30

Session III – Advancing the Green and Digital Transitions Through GreenTech Promotion and Cooperation in the Mediterranean Region

15:00

Chair:

Tal Sadeh, Co-President of the Israeli Association for the Study of European Integration. Senior Lecturer at the Department of Political Science, Tel Aviv University

Inputs statements from Israeli and EU perspectives:

Adi Barel, Managing Director, European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) Hub Israel

Karolina Zubel, Research Economist, Centre for Social and Economic Research (CASE)

First Reactions and Discussion:

Sigalit Lidai, Innovation Diplomacy Manager, Start-Up Nation Central

Fatima Ezzahra Mengoub, Senior Economist, Policy Centre for the New South

Conclusion of the conference and closing

16:30

Roger Albinyana, Managing Director, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)

Tal Sadeh, Co-President of the Israeli Association for the Study of European Integration. Senior Lecturer at the Department of Political Science, Tel Aviv University

Roby Nathanson, Director, Macro Center for Political Economics and IEPN Coordinator