



*Program of the Annual EU Meeting of the
Israeli-European Policy Network (IEPN)*

**“A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall?”
State and Perspectives of EU-Israeli Relations**

Brussels, 16 and 17 June 2015

Chatham House rule applies!

AGENDA

Tuesday - 16 JUNE

18:30 **University Foundation**, Egmontstraat / Rue d'Egmont 11 – 1000
Brussels

19:00-22:30 **Dinner with Keynote Speech**

Introductory Remarks:

- **Dr. Werner Puschra**, Director of FES Israel, IEPN Coordinator
- **Prof. Dr. Stephan Stetter**, Bundeswehr University Munich, IEPN Coordinator

KEYNOTE DINNER SPEECHES

Ambassador Marc Otte

**Director General of Egmont, Royal Institute for International Relations,
Former EU Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process, former
Ambassador of Belgium to Israel**

Wednesday, 17 June

09:00 Transfer from hotel to conference venue

09:30-10:00 Gathering and registration

10:00-10:15 **Opening Remarks**

- **Prof. Dr. Sven Biscop**, Director of Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations
- **Dr. Werner Puschra**, Director of FES Israel, IEPN Coordinator

CLOSED WORKSHOP/ROUNDTABLE:

Where is Israel Heading after the March Elections?

What do the elections mean for Israel's self-perception as both Jewish and democratic state?

The balance between Left and Right in Israeli politics and its implications?

What are perspectives in the EU on this development?

Does Israel (still) risk international isolation, in particular vis-à-vis Europe and the US?

Chair: Dr. Roby Nathanson, Director General of Macro Center for Political Economics, IEPN Coordinator

10:15-10:45: **Input Statements from EU and Israeli perspectives**

- **Dr. Muriel Asseburg (based on policy paper) (SWP Berlin)**
- **Prof. Dr. Joel Peters (based on policy paper) (Virginia Tech University)**

10:45-12.30: **Roundtable and Discussion**

- **Dr. Asseburg, Prof. Peters as well as**
- **Christian Berger (Director for North Africa, Middle East, Arab Peninsula, Iraq and Iran, European External Action Service)**
- **Prof. Dr. Costanza Musu, EU Middle East Policy Expert, Ottawa University**

- **MK Ksenia Svetlova (Zionist Union Faction, Israel)**
- **Dr. Ramzi Chalabi (Tel Aviv University and former Major of Daliat el Carmel)**

12:30-14:00 Lunch Buffet

OPEN FORUM:

Challenges and Perspectives for EU-Israeli Relations

Which implications do the current developments in Israel have for EU-Israeli bilateral relations?

Who are the EU's partners on the Israeli side?

What do these developments mean for the EU's approach towards Palestine and the peace process?

How can the EU exert influence on Israel?

How do these developments affect Israel and its regional environment and the EU's interests in this region, including Israel's role as a strategic partner?

Chair: Felix Eikenberg (FES HQ International Berlin, Dept. Middle East and North Africa)

14:00-14:30 Input Statements from Israeli and EU perspectives

- **Daniel Shek (Former Ambassador of Israel in France)**
- **Eduard Soler i Lecha (based on policy paper) (CIDOB Barcelona)**

14:30-16:30 Roundtable and Discussion and conclusion of the conference

- **Eduard Soler i Lecha, Daniel Shek as well as**
- **Dr. Michael A. Köhler (Director Neighbourhood EuropeAid, European Commission)**
- **Sabine Segal (Director, International Relations Israel Export Institute)**
- **Dr. Dimitris Bouris (Collège d'Europe, Natolin Campus)**
- **Sibille de Cartier (Office of the Foreign Minister, Kingdom of Belgium)**