



Dear Madam, dear Sir,
Dear friends of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung,

The EU Office of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and the Israeli European Policy Network are very pleased to invite you to a panel discussion on

**A Different Dialogue between Europeans and Israelis –
Democracy, the Welfare State and the Global Financial Crisis**

Wednesday, 10 October 2012, 10h30-12h45

**Venue: Representation of Baden-Württemberg to the EU, Rue Belliard 60-62,
Brussels**

A series of social protests took place in all major cities around Israel in summer 2011. At its peak not less than 450.000 people participated in the rallies protesting against soaring living and housing costs and growing inequality within Israeli society.

In Europe the financial crisis has not only caused a public debt crisis but also led to a most alarming social crisis. Austerity measures and extensive social spending cuts in the affected countries made many European taxpayers to pay for the banking bailout.

In this context the roundtable aims to discuss the common social challenges Israel and EU member states are facing. What effective role can politics still play to overcome this crisis? What are the answers of political parties to rebuild social justice and solidarity? And how can they regain the confidence of European and Israeli citizens?

As speakers we are very pleased to welcome **Martin Schulz MEP**, President of the European Parliament, **MK Shelly Yacimovich**, Chairwoman of the Israel Labor Party, and **Patrick Diamond**, Senior Research Fellow at Policy Network and Senior Policy Adviser to the former Labour Government, United Kingdom.



Programme

- 10h30-11h00 *Registration and Coffee*
- 11h00 Welcome by
Ralf Hexel, Director, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Israel
- 11h10 Keynote speeches by
Martin Schulz MEP, President of the European Parliament
MK Shelly Yacimovich, Chairwoman of the Israel Labor Party
Patrick Diamond, Senior Research Fellow at Policy Network and Senior Policy Adviser to the former Labour Government, United Kingdom
- 12h00-12h45 Panel discussion
Chair: **Peter Ehrlich**, Financial Times Deutschland
Following the discussion lunch will be served

Please register by e-mail by **Monday, 8 October 2012**: invitation@fes-europe.eu

We look forward to welcoming you to this event.

With kind regards

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