EJS 2026

November 22-24

ELNET JERUSALEM SUMMIT

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Benjamin Touati

Chief Executive Officer ELNET-Israel

BEYOND EXPECTATIONS, TOWARDS A SHARED FUTURE

As we approach the ELNET Jerusalem Summit 2026, I feel a profound sense of emotion, pride, and anticipation.

What began as an ambitious vision is now becoming an extraordinary reality.

In just a few days, Jerusalem will welcome more than **700 participants, including over 200 European guests,** alongside distinguished personalities from the United States, the Gulf, and beyond.

Political leaders, parliamentarians, diplomats, business leaders, experts, and friends of Israel will come together for what promises to be an exceptional gathering.

But beyond these impressive numbers, what moves me most is the extraordinary enthusiasm, the high expectations, and above all, the genuine willingness of so many remarkable people to engage, contribute, and work together.

This enthusiasm carries a powerful message: we all recognize that we are living through a defining moment.

At a time of major political changes in Israel, Europe, and the United States, and amid profound geopolitical transformations, we face important choices that will shape the future of our region and the relationship between Europe and Israel for years to come.

At such a crucial moment, we cannot afford to allow disagreements or political tensions to overshadow the values, interests, and responsibilities we share.

This is precisely why the ELNET Jerusalem Summit matters.

Our ambition is not simply to bring people together, but to strengthen trust, build meaningful partnerships, and turn shared interests into concrete action.

In this week's Torah portion, Toldot, Isaac faces disputes as he reopens the wells of his father Abraham. Yet he perseveres until he finds a place he calls Rehovot - a place where there is room to grow and prosper.

A powerful reminder that even in times of disagreement, we must continue building bridges, creating opportunities, and looking towards a shared future.

I am deeply grateful to our partners, supporters, distinguished guests, and especially our remarkable ELNET teams, who have worked day and night with extraordinary dedication to make this Summit possible.

The expectations are high, and so is our responsibility. But I have never been more convinced of the importance of our mission or more optimistic about what we can achieve together.

We are not gathering in Jerusalem simply to discuss the future. We are gathering to help shape it.

I look forward to welcoming you all to Jerusalem with great emotion, enthusiasm, and determination.

Jerusalem awaits you. And together, we have important work to do.

Benjamin Touati

CEO, ELNET-Israel

Program 23.11.2026

08:00–09:00 **WELCOMING & REGISTRATION**

09:00–09:05 **GREETINGS**

Tzachi Hanegbi | Chairman, ELNET Jerusalem Summit; Former Head of Israel's National Security Council and National Security Adviser

09:05–09:15 **FIRST KEYNOTE**

Deputy Speaker Michał Kamiński | Senator; Deputy Speaker of the Senate of the Republic of Poland; Member of the Foreign and European Union Affairs Committee

SESSION I — Fireside Chat with European Ambassadors

09:15–10:00 **FIRESIDE CHAT WITH EUROPEAN AMBASSADORS**

Amb. Simona Halperin | Deputy Director General, Head of Europe Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel

Amb. Michael Mann | Ambassador of the European Union to Israel

Amb. Alexander Graf Lambsdorff | Ambassador of Germany to Israel

Amb. Luca Ferrari | Ambassador of Italy to Israel

MODERATOR

Daniel Braun | CEO, GLOBSEC

10:00–10:20 **OPENING SPEECH**

Benjamin Touati | Chief Executive Officer, ELNET Israel

Samuel "Sam" Pinto | Chairman, ELNET Israel

introduce

President Isaac Herzog | President of the State of Israel

SESSION II — Security & Resilience

Lessons from Operational Experience and Evolving Threat Environments

10:20–10:30 **KEYNOTE**

Colonel (Res.) Udi Lahav | Executive Vice President of Marketing, Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI); Israeli Air Force; Former Israeli Defense Attaché to France

10:30–11:10 **PANEL 1 – SECURITY**

Brig. Gen. Commander, IDF Air Defense Array

Nico Lange | Founder and Director, IRIS; Former Chief of Staff, German Federal Ministry of Defence.

Air Marshal (Ret.) Martin "Sammy" Sampson | Former UK Air Component Commander; Former UK defense Senior Advisor to the Middle East and North Africa; Executive Director, IISS-Middle East

Jan Špiler | Deputy Director, Intergovernmental Defence Cooperation Agency (AMOS), Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic

Program 23.11.2026

MODERATOR

Dr. Sarah-Masha Fainberg | Former Policy and Strategic Issues Adviser, Israel Ministry of Defense; Senior Researcher and Head of the Great Powers Program, Elrom Center for Air and Space Studies, Tel Aviv University

11:10–11:20 — **KEYNOTE**

MK Yair Lapid | Leader of the Opposition, Former Prime Minister of Israel

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11:20–12:05 — **PANEL 2 – RESILIENCE**

Brig. Gen. Elad Edri | Chief of Staff, IDF Home Front Command

Aviva Siegel | Survivor of Hamas Captivity, Author and Advocate for Hostages

Olga Deutsch | Vice President, NGO Monitor

MEP Rihards Kols | Member of the European Parliament; Former Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Latvian Parliament

Sabine Lackner | President, German Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW)

MODERATOR

Adv. Ayelet Razin Bet Or | Lawyer and public policy expert on women's rights and gender equality; Former Director of the Authority for the Advancement of the Status of Women

SESSION III Innovation, Technology & Scientific Cooperation

12:05–12:15 — **KEYNOTE**

Omer David Keilaf | Co-Founder & CEO, Innoviz Technologies; Former Officer, Elite Technological Unit, IDF Intelligence Corps

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12:15–13:00 — **PANEL**

Prof. Hossam Haick | Full Professor, Wolfson Faculty of Chemical Engineering, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology; Head of the Laboratory for Nanomaterial-Based Devices

Miriam Shtilman-Lavsovski | Israel Representative, European Quantum Flagship's Quantum Community Network (QCN); Co-Founder, DeepTech Nation

Deputy Minister Dimitrios Markopoulos | Deputy Minister of National Economy and Finance

MP Jekaterina Rojaka | Chair of the Committee on Innovation, Parliament of Lithuania

MODERATOR

Amb. Emmanuel Nahshon | Head of the Task Force Against the Academic Boycott, Association of University Heads of Israel; Former Israeli Ambassador to Belgium and Luxembourg

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13:00–13:15 — **KEYNOTE**

David "Dadi" Barnea | Former Director of the Mossad

13:15–14:30 — **LUNCH**

Program 23.11.2026

14:45–15:00 **KEYNOTE**

Minister Adonis Georgiadis | Minister for Health of the Hellenic Republic, Vice President of New Democracy

SESSION IV A New Reality in the Middle East
Regional Challenges

15:00–16:00 **PANEL**

Zohar Palti | Former Head of Political-Military Bureau, Israeli Ministry of Defense (MoD); former Director of Intelligence, Mossad

Dr. Thanos Dokos | National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of Greece

Michael Roth | Former Minister of State for Europe, Former Chair of the Bundestag Foreign Affairs Committee

Amb. Christophe Bigot | European Union Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process, Former Ambassador of France to Israel

MODERATOR

Ksenia Svetlova | Executive Director, ROPES; Former Member of the Knesset; Middle East Analyst

SESSION V From Abraham Accords to Strategic Cooperation

16:00–16:30 **INTERVIEW**

Tzachi Hanegbi | Chairman, ELNET Jerusalem Summit; Former Head of Israel's National Security Council and National Security Adviser

Dr. Michael Scott Doran | Senior Fellow and Director, Center for Peace and Security in the Middle East, Hudson Institute

MODERATOR

Dr. Helge Fuhst | Chairman of the Editors-in-Chief, Axel Springer PREMIUM Group; Editor-in-Chief, WELT Group

16:30–17:15 **PANEL**

Ayelet Shaked | Former Minister of Justice and Interior of Israel; Former Member of the Security Cabinet

Nasredeen Abdulbari | Former Minister of Justice of Sudan

Jan Lipavský | Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic; Member of the Czech Chamber of Deputies

Dr. Bruno Tertrais | Deputy Director, Foundation for Strategic Research (FRS)

Luigi di Maio | European Union Special Representative for the Gulf Region; Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy

MODERATOR

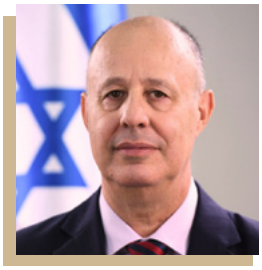
Ruth Wasserman Lande | Former Member of Knesset; Former Deputy Ambassador to Egypt; Expert on Arab Affairs and the Abraham Accords

17:15–17:30 **CLOSING REMARKS**

17:30–18:15 EJS 2026 AWARDS & HAPPY HOUR

SPEAKERS BIO

09:00 | Opening



TZACHI HANEGBI

Chairman, ELNET Jerusalem Summit

ISRAEL

Tzachi Hanegbi is Chairman of the ELNET Jerusalem Summit and former Head of Israel's National Security Council and National Security Adviser. A longtime Israeli public official, he has held several cabinet portfolios and served in the Knesset, bringing extensive experience in national security, government and foreign affairs. His long public career includes senior cabinet and parliamentary service, alongside responsibility for national security policy at the highest level of government.

09:05 | First keynote



DEPUTY SPEAKER MICHAŁ KAMIŃSKI

Senator; Deputy Marshal of the Polish Senate

POLAND

Michał Kamiński is a Polish senator and Deputy Marshal of the Senate, serving on its Foreign and European Union Affairs Committee. He previously served as a Member of the European Parliament, bringing experience in European parliamentary affairs and international relations. His European career also includes service in the European Parliament, connecting his work in Warsaw with European-level parliamentary diplomacy.

SESSION I

Fireside Chat with European Ambassadors

09:15 | Fireside chat with European ambassadors



AMB. SIMONA HALPERIN

Deputy Director General and Head of Europe Division, Israel MFA

ISRAEL

Simona Halperin is a career diplomat with more than 30 years of service. She was Israel's Ambassador to Russia (2023–2025), Ambassador to Singapore and East Timor, and Deputy Director General for Eurasia and the Western Balkans. Her earlier postings include Taipei, Kazakhstan, South Korea and Israel's Mission to the European Union. She also served as counselor to the European Parliament, deputy ambassador in Kazakhstan and South Korea, and director of the Ministry's International Organizations and Human Rights Department.

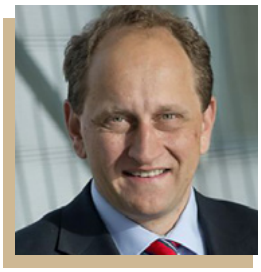


AMB. MICHAEL MANN

Ambassador of the European Union to Israel

EUROPEAN UNION

Amb. Michael Mann has served as the European Union's Ambassador to Israel since September 2025. Previously, he was Chief Spokesperson for EU High Representative Catherine Ashton and headed the European External Action Service department covering Israel, the Palestinian territories and the Middle East Peace Process. His work spans European foreign-policy communications and the EU's diplomatic engagement with Israel and the wider Middle East.



AMB. ALEXANDER GRAF LAMBSDORFF

Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Israel

GERMANY

Amb. Alexander Graf Lambsdorff previously served as Germany's Ambassador to Russia (2023–2026), a member of the German Bundestag (2017–2023) and Vice President of the European Parliament (2014–2017). He served in the European Parliament from 2004 to 2017 and earlier held diplomatic assignments in Washington and at the Federal Foreign Office. He was a press officer at Germany's Embassy in Washington and previously worked on Russia policy at the Federal Foreign Office. He holds graduate degrees from Bonn and Georgetown universities.

SPEAKERS BIO



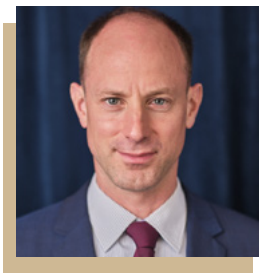
AMB. LUCA FERRARI

Ambassador of Italy to Israel

ITALY

Amb. Luca Ferrari joined Italy's Foreign and Diplomatic Service in 1986. He served in Moscow, twice in Washington, D.C., and in Madrid as Deputy Head of Mission. In Rome, he worked in the cabinets of Foreign Ministers Gianni De Michelis and Lamberto Dini, as Director for Near Eastern Affairs during the Second Intifada, and as Deputy Director General for Global Affairs and Financial Multilateral Cooperation. He subsequently served as Italy's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia (2015-2019) and China (2019-2022). In 2022, he was appointed Personal Envoy of the Prime Minister for the G7/G20 Summits. In June 2024, he assumed his duties as Italy's Ambassador to Israel.

MODERATOR



DANIEL BRAUN

CEO, GLOBSEC

CZECH REPUBLIC

Daniel Braun is CEO of GLOBSEC and previously served as Chief of Cabinet to European Commission Vice-President Věra Jourová. Earlier in his career, he was First Deputy Minister for Regional Development in the Czech Republic. As a senior European Commission official, he contributed to major EU initiatives, including the European Democracy Action Plan, the Defense of Democracy Package and the EU Code of Practice on Disinformation. His work has focused on strengthening democratic institutions, addressing disinformation and developing European policy responses to emerging challenges. His career combines experience in Czech national government with senior responsibilities in European policymaking and institutional cooperation.

10:00 | Opening speech



BENJAMIN TOUATI

Chief Executive Officer, ELNET-Israel

ISRAEL

Benjamin Touati serves as Chief Executive Officer of ELNET-Israel and is the founder and director of the ELNET Jerusalem Summit. His work focuses on advancing strategic dialogue, institutional partnerships and practical cooperation between Israel and European decision-makers. As summit founder, he brings together European policymakers, Israeli institutions and international partners around security, diplomacy and scientific cooperation. Before joining ELNET, Touati represented the Jewish Agency for Israel in Paris, working closely with French institutions, policymakers, and Jewish community leadership. His deep familiarity with European political systems and Israeli government structures has made him a recognized figure in discussions related to Israel's international representation.



SAMUEL "SAM" PINTO

Chairman, ELNET-Israel

ISRAEL

Sam Pinto is Chairman of ELNET-Israel. Following an international banking career across France, Asia and the United States, primarily with the Edmond de Rothschild Group, he moved to Israel in 2009. His philanthropic work supports education and opportunities for young people, including through Baït Ham, Kiah-Alliance, the Franco-Israeli high school at Mikve Israel and Agudat Sabah.



H.E Isaac Herzog

President of the State of Israel

Isaac Herzog is President of the State of Israel. He previously served as Chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel and held senior ministerial positions, including Leader of the Opposition and Minister of Welfare and Social Services. He was elected Israel's eleventh president in 2021. Before becoming President, he served as Leader of the Opposition and held ministerial portfolios including Welfare and Social Services, Housing and Construction, and Tourism.

SPEAKERS BIO

SESSION II

Security & Resilience

Lessons from Operational Experience and Evolving Threat Environments

10:20 | Keynote



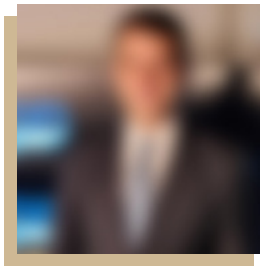
COL. (RES.) UDI LAHAV

Executive Vice President of Marketing, Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)

ISRAEL

Udi Lahav is Executive Vice President of Marketing at Israel Aerospace Industries. A retired Israeli Air Force colonel, he previously served as Israel's Defense Attaché to France, combining operational military experience with international defense cooperation and aerospace industry leadership. His earlier service as Israel's Defense Attaché to France connects operational defense experience with international military and industrial partnerships.

10:30 | Panel 1 - Security



Brig. Gen. Commander, IDF Air Defense Array

ISRAEL

Brigadier General is listed in the summit program as Commander of the Israel Defense Forces Air Defense Array.



NICO LANGE

Founder and Director, IRIS; Former Chief of Staff, German Federal Ministry of Defence

GERMANY

Nico Lange is a Senior Fellow at the Munich Security Conference and the Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA), and Senior Advisor at GLOBSEC. He previously served as Head of the Joint Staff at Germany's Federal Ministry of Defence (2019–2022) and held senior positions within the CDU and Konrad Adenauer Foundation, including in Washington and Ukraine. He also teaches at the University of Potsdam and the Hertie School in Berlin, specializing in European security, defence and international affairs.



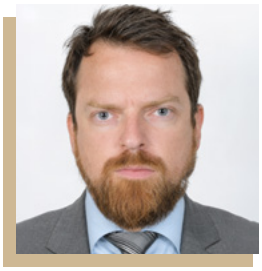
AIR MARSHAL (RET.) MARTIN "SAMMY" SAMPSON

Executive Director, IISS-Middle East

UNITED KINGDOM

Air Marshal Martin "Sammy" Sampson is Executive Director of IISS (International Institute for Strategic Studies)-Middle East. He previously served as the United Kingdom's Air Component Commander and as a senior UK defense adviser to the Middle East and North Africa, drawing on extensive operational and regional defense experience. His appointments have connected senior British air operations, regional military diplomacy and strategic defense analysis.

SPEAKERS BIO



JAN ŠPILER

Deputy Director, AMOS, Czech Ministry of Defense

CZECH REPUBLIC

Jan Špiler is Deputy Director of the Intergovernmental Defense Cooperation Agency (AMOS) at the Czech Ministry of Defense. His work is situated at the intersection of international defense partnerships and government-to-government security cooperation.

MODERATOR



DR. SARAH-MASHA FAINBERG

Head of Great Powers Program, Elrom Center, Tel Aviv University

ISRAEL

Dr. Sarah-Masha Fainberg leads the Great Powers Program at Tel Aviv University's Elrom Center for Air and Space Studies. She previously advised Israel's Ministry of Defense on policy and strategic issues and held research and teaching appointments at INSS and Georgetown University. Her work examines great-power competition and modern air and space warfare. She previously advised Israel's Ministry of Defense, researched at INSS and taught at Georgetown University.

11:10 | Keynote



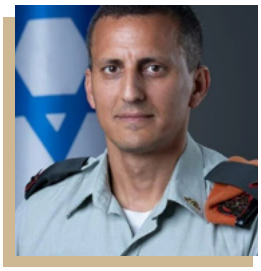
MK YAIR LAPID

Leader of the Opposition, Former Prime Minister of Israel

ISRAEL

Yair Lapid is Leader of the Opposition and Chairman of Yesh Atid, which he founded in 2012. He previously served as Israel's Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Finance Minister. As Foreign Minister, he convened the inaugural Negev Summit and helped establish the I2U2 forum, advancing regional cooperation. Before entering politics, he was an author, journalist and television presenter.

11:20 | Panel 2 - Resilience



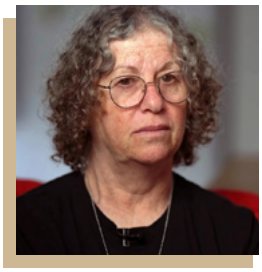
BRIG. GEN. ELAD EDRI

Chief of Staff, IDF Home Front Command

ISRAEL

Brigadier General Elad Edri is listed as Chief of Staff of the IDF Home Front Command, which plays a central role in Israel's civil defense and emergency preparedness. His participation is marked as tentative in the draft program.

SPEAKERS BIO



AVIVA SIEGEL

Survivor of Hamas Captivity, Author and Advocate for Hostages

ISRAEL

Aviva Siegel was abducted by Hamas alongside her husband from Kfar Aza on October 7, 2023. Released after 51 days in captivity during the November 2023 ceasefire agreement, she became a tireless advocate for her husband's freedom, campaigning until his release after 484 days in captivity.



OLGA DEUTSCH

Vice President, NGO Monitor

ISRAEL

Olga Deutsch is Vice President of NGO Monitor, an organization that examines the activities and funding of non-governmental organizations involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Her work focuses on European institutions, NGO policy and public affairs.



RIHARDS KOLS, MEP

Member of the European Parliament, Latvia

LATVIA

Rihards Kols has represented Latvia in the European Parliament since 2024 as a member of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group. Previously, he served in Latvia's Saeima, including as Chair of its Foreign Affairs Committee. His parliamentary work spans foreign policy, security and transatlantic relations. He serves in the European Conservatives and Reformists Group and has worked on foreign affairs, international trade and European industrial policy.



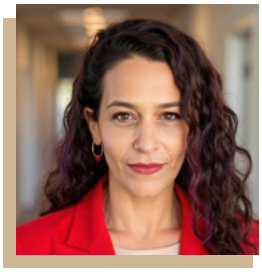
SABINE LACKNER

President, German Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW)

GERMANY

Sabine Lackner is President of Germany's Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW), the federal civil protection organization specializing in technical assistance and disaster response. Her leadership focuses on emergency readiness, crisis response and the capabilities needed to support communities during major disruptions.

MODERATOR



ADV. AYELET RAZIN BET OR

Former Director General, Israel's Authority for the Advancement of the Status of Women

ISRAEL

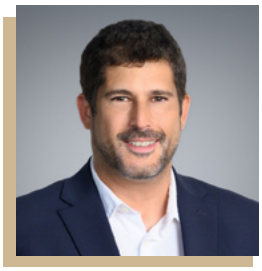
Ayelet Razin Bet Or is a lawyer and international expert on conflict-related sexual violence and women's rights. She previously served as Director General of Israel's Authority for the Advancement of the Status of Women, bringing legal and policy experience to discussions of protection, accountability and resilience. She previously led Israel's Authority for the Advancement of the Status of Women, bringing senior public-sector leadership to her international advocacy.

SPEAKERS BIO

SESSION III

Innovation, Technology & Scientific Cooperation

12:05 | Keynote



OMER DAVID KEILAF

Co-Founder and CEO, Innoviz Technologies

ISRAEL

Omer David Keilaf is Co-Founder and CEO of Innoviz Technologies, a company developing LiDAR sensing technologies for mobility and other applications. He previously served as an officer in an elite technological unit of the IDF Intelligence Corps, bringing experience in advanced engineering and technology entrepreneurship. Before founding Innoviz, he served in an elite technological unit of the IDF Intelligence Corps, bringing defense technology experience into the mobility sector.

12:15 | Panel



PROF. HOSSAM HAICK

Professor, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology

ISRAEL

Professor Hossam Haick is a faculty member in the Technion's Wolfson Faculty of Chemical Engineering and heads its Laboratory for Nanomaterial-Based Devices. His research develops advanced sensing technologies and nanomaterial-based systems, including applications at the intersection of engineering, medicine and diagnostics. His work at the Technion bridges chemical engineering, nanomaterials and advanced diagnostic sensing.



MIRIAM SHTILMAN-LAVSOVSKI

Co-Founder, DeepTech Nation

ISRAEL

Miriam Shtilman-Lavsovski is Co-Founder of DeepTech Nation and Israel's representative to the European Quantum Flagship's Quantum Community Network. Her work connects research, emerging technologies and international innovation ecosystems, with a particular focus on quantum technologies and scientific cooperation.



DEPUTY MINISTER DIMITRIOS MARKOPOULOS

Deputy Minister of National Economy and Finance

GREECE

Dimitris Markopoulos has served as Greece's Deputy Minister of Economy and Finance, responsible for tax policy, since June 2026. A Member of Parliament for New Democracy since 2019, he previously had a distinguished career in economic and political journalism, holding senior editorial positions in leading Greek media. He has served on key parliamentary committees and international delegations, focusing on economic policy and development.



JEKATERINA ROJAKA, MP

Chair, Committee on Economics and Innovation, Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

LITHUANIA

Jekaterina Rojaka chairs the Lithuanian Parliament's Committee on Economics and Innovation. An economist and former Vice-Minister of Economy and Innovation, she previously held senior economic research roles at DNB and Luminor and worked at the World Bank and Bank of Lithuania. Her experience combines economic policy, financial analysis and business strategy.

SPEAKERS BIO

MODERATOR



AMB. EMMANUEL NAHSHON

Head of Task Force Against Academic Boycott, Association of University Heads of Israel

ISRAEL

Ambassador Emmanuel Nahshon is a veteran Israeli diplomat and former Ambassador to Belgium and Luxembourg. He previously served as Deputy Director General for Public Diplomacy and Spokesperson of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with additional postings in Germany, Turkey, Venezuela and Brussels. He now leads efforts against academic boycotts for Israel's university leadership. He also served as Deputy Director General for Public Diplomacy and spokesperson of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, following diplomatic postings in Europe and beyond.

13:00 | Keynote



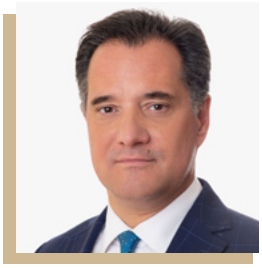
DAVID "DADI" BARNEA

Former Director of the Mossad

ISRAEL

David "Dadi" Barnea is a former Director of the Mossad, Israel's national intelligence agency. His career in intelligence included senior operational and leadership roles before his appointment to lead the organization.

14:45 | Keynotes



ADONIS GEORGIADIS

Minister of Health of Greece

GREECE

Adonis Georgiadis is Greece's Minister of Health and Vice President of the New Democracy party. A longstanding figure in Greek public life, he has also served in ministerial positions covering development, investment and labor, and as a member of the Hellenic Parliament. A longstanding member of Greece's political leadership, he has also held cabinet responsibilities beyond the health portfolio.

SESSION IV

A New Reality in the Middle East

Regional Challenges

15:00 | Panel



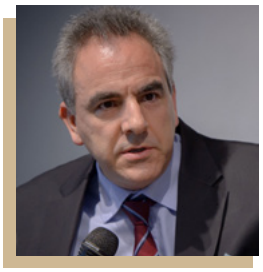
ZOHAR PALTI

Chair, ELNET Forum of Strategic Dialogue

ISRAEL

Zohar Palti chairs ELNET's Forum of Strategic Dialogue. He formerly headed the Political-Military Bureau at Israel's Ministry of Defense and served as Director of Intelligence and counterterrorism chief at the Mossad. Before that, he spent 25 years in IDF Military Intelligence, building a four-decade career in national security. His senior positions included Mossad Director of Intelligence and head of its counterterrorism division, following 25 years in IDF Military Intelligence.

SPEAKERS BIO



DR. THANOS DOKOS

National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of Greece

GREECE

Dr. Thanos Dokos serves as National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of Greece. His career in international security and strategic studies includes leadership of the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP), contributing expertise in regional security, foreign policy and the Eastern Mediterranean.

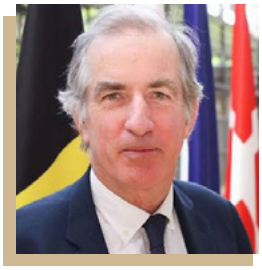


MICHAEL ROTH

Former German Minister of State for Europe

GERMANY

Michael Roth is a former German Minister of State for Europe and former Chair of the Bundestag Foreign Affairs Committee. A longtime member of the German Bundestag, he has worked extensively on European affairs, democratic institutions and foreign policy. He is also an author, commentator and Managing Partner at Freedomfighter.



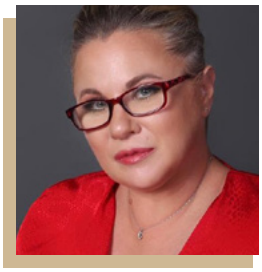
AMB. CHRISTOPHE BIGOT

European Union Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process

FRANCE

Christophe Bigot is the European Union Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process, appointed in June 2025. A senior French diplomat specializing in the Middle East and Africa, he previously served as Ambassador to Israel and to Senegal and The Gambia, Director for Africa and the Indian Ocean at the French foreign ministry, and Director of Strategy at the DGSE.

MODERATOR



KSENIA SVETLOVA

Former MK, Executive Director of The Regional Organization for Peace, Economics and Security (ROPES) | Associate Fellow | Chatham House

ISRAEL

Ksenia Svetlova is an Executive Director of ROPES – The Regional Organization for Peace, Economics and Security and a former member of the Israeli Knesset. She focuses on issues of Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Israeli-Arab relations, Russian influence in the Middle East, as well as the regional and international relations of the Middle East. She has covered the Middle East for fifteen years at Israeli Channel 9 and has written for the Jerusalem Post, Times of Israel, Haaretz, BBC Russian and other international media.

SPEAKERS BIO

SESSION V

From Abraham Accords to Strategic Cooperation

16:00 | Interview



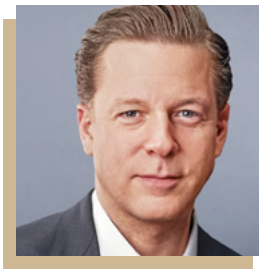
DR. MICHAEL SCOTT DORAN

Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute

UNITED STATES

Michael Scott Doran is a Senior Fellow and Director of the Center for Peace and Security in the Middle East at Hudson Institute. A scholar of Middle Eastern politics and American foreign policy, he previously served in national security roles in the U.S. government and writes widely on regional strategy.

MODERATOR



DR. HELGE FUHST

Chairman of Editors-in-Chief, Axel Springer PREMIUM Group

GERMANY

Dr. Helge Fuhst is Chairman of the Editors-in-Chief of Axel Springer's PREMIUM Group and Editor-in-Chief of the WELT Group. His career in journalism and media leadership spans political reporting, editorial management and public affairs coverage.

16:30 | Panel

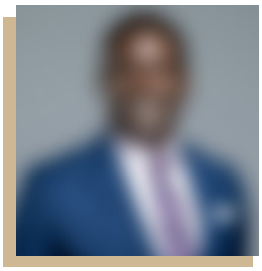


AYELET SHAKED

Former Minister of Justice and Interior of Israel; Former Member of the Security Cabinet

ISRAEL

Ayelet Shaked is a former Israeli Minister of Justice and Minister of Interior and served on Israel's Security Cabinet. An engineer by training, she worked at Texas Instruments before entering public life and was elected to the Knesset in 2013. She currently chairs the Friends of Schneider Children's Medical Center, alongside her public engagement.



NASREDEEN ABDULBARI

Former Minister of Justice of Sudan

SUDAN

Nasredeen Abdulbari served as Sudan's Minister of Justice during the country's transitional period. A legal scholar and public official, he worked on legal and institutional reform and participated in a period of significant political and diplomatic change in Sudan.

SPEAKERS BIO



JAN LIPAVSKÝ

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

CZECH REPUBLIC

Jan Lipavský is a member of the Czech Chamber of Deputies and former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. His public service focuses on foreign policy, European affairs and international security, including the Czech Republic's relationships with allies and partners.



DR. BRUNO TERTRAIS

Deputy Director, Foundation for Strategic Research

FRANCE

Bruno Tertrais is Deputy Director of France's Foundation for Strategic Research (FRS), where his work focuses on international security, deterrence, nuclear strategy and geopolitics. He is a widely published analyst of strategic affairs and European defense policy.



LUIGI DI MAIO

EU Special Representative for the Gulf Region

ITALY

Luigi Di Maio serves as the European Union Special Representative for the Gulf Region. He previously served as Italy's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and as Deputy Prime Minister, bringing experience in Italian government and European diplomacy. Before his EU appointment, he served as Italy's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

MODERATOR



RUTH WASSERMAN LANDE

Former Member of Knesset; Former Deputy Ambassador to Egypt; Middle East and Abraham Accords Expert

ISRAEL

Ruth Wasserman Lande is a former Member of Knesset and co-founder of its Abraham Accords Caucus. A career diplomat, she served as Deputy Ambassador in Cairo, adviser to President Shimon Peres and Deputy Director General for International Affairs at the Federation of Local Authorities. She is an analyst at the MirYam Institute and a graduate of Harvard's Kennedy School.

WORDS FROM OUR CEOs

ELNET

European Leadership Network

At the heart of the republican tempest: holding the line against the rising tide of perils

France is reeling. She hangs in the balance of a decisive presidential election where the future of her centuries-old pact is being played out on a razor's edge.

Amidst these turbulences, ELNET France holds its course: defending the values of the Republic with absolute intransigence, while lucidly denouncing the normalization of Islamism and its destructive corollary, anti-Israel and anti-Jewish hatred.

A sign that clear-sightedness is gaining ground: on 8 October, the European Parliament adopted, by 381 votes to 167, a resolution calling on the European Union to adopt a strategy against Islamist infiltration and the influence of the Muslim Brotherhood network. Following in the footsteps of this initiative, the French Parliament is preparing to do the same, with a resolution tabled on 28 October with the Bureau of the National Assembly.

The conflagration of our political landscape constitutes a dangerous democratic pivot. On one side, the Rassemblement National, whose candidate is riding high in the polls. On the other, La France Insoumise exposes national cohesion to communitarianism, orchestrates the subversion of institutions, and lets the threat of chaos loom in the event of an adversary's victory.

Far beyond the Jews of France, it is the entire community of Israel's friends, in Parliament and in public opinion alike, that finds itself caught in a vise, measuring with tragic acuity just how much it constitutes the seismograph of the country's moral health: when the Republic falters, it is the bilateral relationship between France and Israel that wavers. Those responsible for this downward spiral forget that the rule is quite the reverse.

To save the nation is to reject the deadly blackmail of the Islamists, who have made Palestinianism their Trojan horse. It is to hammer home with force that France's place and influence in the world, and particularly in the Middle East, are neither negotiable nor alterable: they are consubstantial with republican universalism.

It is precisely this demand for courage and geopolitical truth that we carry with brilliance on the occasion of this new ELNET Summit in Jerusalem. With war back in Europe, it is by fortifying our democratic alliances against the front of obscurantisms that we will refuse decline and guarantee, loud and clear, our future on the soil of France.



Dr. Arié Bensemhoun

CEO | ELNET France

Dr. Arié Bensemhoun has led ELNET France since 2011, strengthening France–Israel relations through political dialogue and civil society engagement. A dental surgeon by training, he brings extensive experience in communications, public relations and international affairs. He helped establish SOS Racisme in 1984 and became its first regional president in Midi-Pyrénées in 1985, before holding various leadership positions within France's central Jewish institutions. During his presidency of Toulouse's Jewish community, the Islamist attack on the Ozar Hatorah school left a profound and lasting mark on him. He is a Knight of the French National Order of Merit.

From ELNET Italy to ELNET Mediterranean

THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN IS NO LONGER A PERIPHERY

The Eastern Mediterranean is now decisive for Europe's future: security, energy, trade routes and digital infrastructure are inseparable, and stability is an economic factor. Italy cannot watch from a distance.

Hence ELNET Italy, founded in Rome in February 2024. It has shown that Italy–Israel dialogue is a lever for the whole Euro-Mediterranean space and, with Greece, Cyprus and Malta, is becoming a Mediterranean platform.

What ELNET Italy has built since 2024

ELNET Italy links politics, institutions, businesses and research on Italy–Israel–Europe issues, with a strictly non-partisan method.

Its main tool is delegations that let Italian parliamentarians and decision-makers know Israel first-hand and discuss security and cooperation candidly.

It also launched the IMEC Forum on the India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor and an editorial observatory on Israel, the Eastern Mediterranean, innovation and security.

In July 2026 it brought a Greek parliamentary delegation to Israel, the first since the Israel–Iran conflict.

Italy and Israel: four shared interests

The Rome–Jerusalem bond rests on complementarity: Israeli leadership in AI, cybersecurity and advanced technologies meets Italy's industrial base, while Italy opens European networks to Israel. Four interests stand out.

- **Connectivity and IMEC**. The G7-launched corridor links India, the Gulf, Israel and Europe; Italy, Greece and Israel are its western anchor. ELNET Italy will host the third IMEC Forum in Greece in 2027.
- **AI and emerging technologies.** Israeli innovation meets European priorities on competitiveness, starting with the AI initiative in Rome in February 2027.
- **Security and democratic resilience.** Radicalisation and transnational networks are shared challenges requiring expert analysis and confidential exchange.
- **Stable political dialogue.** After the 2027 election, a non-partisan channel must bring new parliamentarians to Israel and ensure continuity.

From ELNET Italy to ELNET Mediterranean

ELNET Italy is extending its network to Greece, Cyprus and Malta: almost 14 million people and about USD 550 billion in GDP at the crossroads of Europe and the Middle East.

Greece is an EU energy and logistics hub and, with Italy, one of IMEC's main European gateways. The July 2026 delegation paved the way for a permanent office in Athens.

Cyprus is Israel's closest partner on offshore energy and maritime security; the Greece–Cyprus–Israel trilateral is a pillar of regional stability.

Malta has balanced, constructive relations with Israel on trade, innovation and the digital economy, and is a gateway to North Africa.

Italy is the linchpin: a key trading partner and a reliable interlocutor with Brussels for all three. In 2027 a joint delegation to Israel and the IMEC Forum in Greece will turn a bilateral relationship into a Mediterranean network.

Within IMEC, Italy brings industry, Greece a maritime platform and Israel technology and the link to the Middle East. The corridor's value will depend on funded, feasible projects.

Research and development: Horizon as Mediterranean infrastructure

Research is the network's intellectual infrastructure, and Horizon Europe its main instrument.

Israel has been an associated country since December 2021, and Italy, Greece, Cyprus and

Malta are full participants, so joint consortia in AI, cybersecurity, energy, water and health are already possible.

ELNET Italy can connect universities, research centres and businesses in all five countries. The February 2027 AI initiative in Rome is the starting point; the next framework programme, from 2028, will be the test.

From handshakes to working alliances

A network's value lies in lasting cooperation, not events. ELNET Italy's bet for 2027–2031 is to turn personal relationships into stable programmes: governments change, while trade routes, industry and expertise endure.

Italy has what it takes to be this region's centre of gravity. ELNET Italy was born Italian; its future is Mediterranean. What is needed is the political will to make the region a national and European priority. The bridge exists: it is up to us to cross it.priority, beyond electoral seasons. The bridge already exists: it is up to us to cross it.



Roberta Anati

CEO | ELNET Italy

Roberta Anati, with over 30 years of experience, is a successful leader and entrepreneur in the field of international economic relations. Since 1992, she has played a key role in developing bilateral relations between Italy and Israel, establishing the Tel Aviv office of the Italian Trade Agency (ICE) as Deputy Director and later serving as Vice President of the Israel-Italy Chamber of Commerce. Throughout her career, she has worked closely with the Italian Embassy on various strategic political, economic, and technological issues, gaining extensive expertise in geopolitical dynamics and international relations. She has also actively contributed to the creation of strategic alliances, supporting the growth and internationalization of businesses and institutions, with a particular focus on the Security, Energy, and Mobility sectors.

Currently, as President of ELNET Italy, Roberta Anati remains a key figure in fostering cooperation between the two countries. She promotes initiatives aimed at integrating parliamentary policies, driving innovation, and supporting sustainable growth, thereby strengthening the strategic partnership between Italy and Israel.

Israel has something Europe needs. We make sure Europe knows it.

In November 2025, Israel opened an embassy in Tallinn, Estonia. I see that decision as an expression of something we have been working toward for years: a closer relationship between countries with much to learn from one another, and increasingly compelling reasons to do so.

From Warsaw, the connection feels immediate. Across Central and Eastern Europe, history lives in family memories. It shapes what we expect of our governments and whom we trust. It also keeps one question close to the surface: when it matters most, can we count on anyone beyond ourselves? Russia's war against Ukraine has given questions of sovereignty, preparedness, and national survival a terrible urgency. In Israel, these questions are woven into daily life. How does a hospital keep working under attack? How does a government maintain public trust? How does a society prepare for a crisis whose duration nobody can predict?

The strategic relationship is already taking concrete form. Since 2021, defense contracts between CEE countries and Israel have exceeded $6 billion and counting. Israeli air defense protecting European skies may once have sounded like science fiction. Today, it is an operational reality. Germany brought the first elements of its Israeli-made Arrow 3 system into service in December 2025. Finland is preparing to deploy David's Sling, while other countries along NATO's eastern flank are exploring Israeli air-defense capabilities.

Much of our work at ELNET CEE consists of giving this partnership depth. We begin by listening: what do our partners need, where do they see gaps, and which experiences could help? Their answers shape the people we bring together and the programs we build. We work with parliaments, embassies, ministries, and professional institutions to connect political commitment with practical knowledge. Parliamentary relationships help sustain dialogue through elections and disagreements. Professional exchanges allow people responsible for difficult decisions to examine how others have approached them, including where they have failed.

Sometimes the knowledge is very specific. The YaHaLOM protocol is a practical psychological first-aid method that helps someone experiencing acute stress regain orientation and the ability to act. Through our programs, that knowledge reached people responsible for others in moments of crisis. Our exchanges on women's conscription, combat service, and military leadership bring Israeli experience into European discussions about personnel and readiness. Our work on strategic communication examines how media and institutions can explain danger honestly, counter hostile information operations, and retain public confidence. Civil defense brings these concerns together. We have brought Israeli hospital specialists to Poland and the Czech Republic, and experts on community resilience and critical infrastructure protection to partners across our region. Our regional partners, in turn, contribute experience in comprehensive defense, advanced cybersecurity, digital resilience, and involving citizens in national preparedness. Each side has something to teach, and something to reconsider.

For me, this work requires the humility to listen, put our egos aside, and question our own assumptions. Part of my role is translating Israel to Europeans, and Europe to Israelis: explaining the history, political realities, and sensitivities that each side may take for granted. A well-intentioned statement or gesture can be understood very differently by the people

receiving it. Helping both sides recognize that, and find a better way to communicate, can prevent an avoidable misunderstanding from becoming a diplomatic problem. Good intentions matter. So does understanding how to put them into practice.

I also care about what happens afterward. Who calls whom when a new question arises? Which conversation leads to further training? What knowledge finds its way into an institution? Our supporters give us the continuity to pursue that work, long after an event has ended.

Israel is already embedded in European security. We need one another more than ever, and that interdependence deserves sustained political attention. At ELNET CEE, we work to strengthen it through people who know one another, institutions that can cooperate, and relationships strong enough to hold when circumstances become difficult.



Marta Kubica

CEO | ELNET Central and Eastern Europe (CEE)

Marta Kubica is the Chief Executive Officer of the Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) of ELNET, where she fosters diplomatic relationships between Israel and CEE countries. Marta is currently focused on developing diplomatic initiatives that promote Israel's innovative solutions in the field of crisis management, with the goal of aiding Ukrainian refugees and building community resilience in Central & Eastern Europe. With over 18 years of experience, Marta applies her educational background in Jewish studies and political science to forge meaningful people-to-people ties between Israel and the European countries under her purview, which include Poland, the V4, the Baltics, and Finland. Prior to joining ELNET, Marta built her diplomatic knowledge by supporting top officials at the Embassy of Israel in Poland and the Embassy of the United States in Warsaw. During this time, she developed valuable skills by liaising with state and local governments in the business, academic, and religious communities.

Empowering Resilience - Strengthening capacities through partnerships with Israel

ELNET's Berlin office is responsible for the German-speaking region (DACH), with a current focus on Germany and Austria. In Germany, this includes engagement at the federal level as well as in selected federal states of strategic relevance. Switzerland is intended to follow at a later stage.

Our work is guided by a simple idea: with ELNET's dialogue formats and publications, we strengthen the capacity of leaders to act. Cooperation is no longer based on historical responsibility only, but also on shared values and strategic interests. This is the logic behind our 2027 agenda:

Empowering Resilience – Strengthening capacities through partnerships and cooperation with Israel in security, innovation, and democracy.

Over recent years, ELNET's team in Berlin has increasingly translated bilateral relations into concrete programs and platforms. Examples include the **German-Israeli Health Forum for Artificial Intelligence (GIHF-AI)** since 2021, the dialogue initiative **Fragemauer** ("Quest ion Wall"), launched in 2023, and the **ELNET Security & Defence Initiative (ESDI)**, established in 2025. These initiatives illustrate how political relationships can develop into structured cooperation in areas of shared strategic relevance.

This work builds on a long-standing foundation. Together with the Federal Academy for Security Policy (BAKS), ELNET has established the **German-Israeli Strategic Forum** as an enduring platform for confidential exchange between senior representatives from politics, security, research and government. With a 14th edition upcoming, it's ELNET's most traditional dialogue platform. The Berlin office has also worked intensively for years on the implications of the **Abraham Accords,** exploring how Europe can contribute to regional cooperation between Israel and Arab partners in security, innovation, trade and diplomacy. The office is led by **Carsten Ovens**, who joined ELNET in 2019 and has served as CEO in Berlin since 2023. A former member of the Hamburg State Parliament with a professional background in strategy and management consulting, he experienced **October 7** in Tel Aviv.

His subsequent book, "Im Morgengrauen – Wie der 7. Oktober Israel veränderte", reflects on the impact of that day on Israel's society through conversations with eyewitnesses, survivors and experts. ELNET has made it part of its mission to communicate ongoing developments, enhancing understanding, and thereby contributing to stronger bilateral relations.

For ELNET in Berlin, resilience is ultimately about moving from solidarity to capability: building trusted relationships, sharing expertise and creating partnerships that make Europe and Israel stronger together.



Carsten Ovens

CEO | ELNET Germany

Carsten Ovens has been the head of the DACH office of the European Leadership Network since March 2019. In June 2023, he was promoted to CEO. He has gained more than two decades of experience in politics, including as a member of the State Parliament of Hamburg, and has dedicated his work to strengthening ties between Germany and Israel for years. Ovens has served in several business development and consulting roles across Europe. He has also worked as Lecturer for Marketing and Communications at leading universities and pursued research on the impact of social media communications on politics and society. He studied Business and Economics and International Business at Hamburg and Sydney universities.

Foreword

At this critical time for UK-Israel relations, and the Middle East as a region, we share this paper to provide factual information and context to a complex conflict – providing analysis regarding October 7, the situation in Gaza, and the backdrop to previous peace processes and anti-Israel propaganda.

It is important context to the conflict that October 7 was the worst terrorist attack in the history of Israel, and was more akin to an invasion. The attack on Israel was subsequently supported by Iran's regional proxies and set the stage for regional war. There is no doubt that the motivation of October 7 was to derail the Abraham Accords and regional peace efforts.

This paper provides answers to the many common questions you may have and a useful reference guide.

To engage in complex issues one owes a responsibility to engage thoughtfully and with the facts, and it is through this philosophy we hope our work will continue to educate and inform.



Rt. Hon. Joan Ryan

Co-CEO | ELNET UK

Following a successful career as a local councilor, Joan Ryan was elected as a UK Member of Parliament in 1997. In 2002 Joan Ryan was promoted to Government Whip followed by a further promotion to become the Home Office Minister responsible for Immigration and Police Improvement. In 2007 she was appointed as Special Representative to Cyprus by the Prime Minister and appointed to the Privy Council by Her Majesty the Queen. In 2015 Joan Ryan was appointed as Chair for the Labour Friends of Israel and in 2016 she was appointed by the Speaker to the House of Commons Speaker's Panel, chairing public bills and parliamentary debates.



Gemma Ricketts

Co-CEO | ELNET UK

Gemma Ricketts is co-CEO of ELNET-UK, and is a former political advisor with the UK Labour Party, working for politicians including Charles Clark, David Miliband and Pat McFadden. She has spent the last decade in financial services, working on global transformation programmes in the regulatory, risk and conduct space. Gemma has written extensively on the Israel-Hamas conflict and has led delegations to Israel.

Connecting Europe and Israel

BUILDING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH DIALOGUE, SHARED INTERESTS AND COOPERATION

Europe matters to Israel - and Israel matters to Europe. The European continent carries considerable strategic, political and economic weight, shaped by its history, its proximity to the Middle East and its direct stake in the region's stability. For Israel, engagement with Europe is not simply a matter of geography or trade; it is an essential part of its international relationships and long-term security and prosperity.

A global partner with shared interests. The European Union brings together 27 member states and is a major global economic and diplomatic actor, represented across key international institutions and forums. It is the world's second-largest economic bloc and Israel's largest trading partner. In 2025, bilateral trade in goods reached €43.3 billion, with the EU accounting for 31.7% of Israel's total goods trade: 33.1% of Israeli imports came from the EU and 29.4% of exports went there. Two-way trade in services was worth a further €26.6 billion in 2024. These figures underline the depth of the economic relationship and the importance of an open, stable partnership.

Cooperation is also rooted in a shared interest in regional stability. Developments in the Middle East have direct consequences for both Europe and Israel. Both have an interest in reducing instability, addressing common security challenges and working towards a sustainable resolution of the Israeli Palestinian conflict. At a time of complex geopolitical change, sustained dialogue and practical cooperation are more important than ever.

Innovation without borders: Horizon Europe. The EU's flagship research and innovation programme provides a framework for researchers, universities, start-ups and companies to collaborate across borders and turn scientific breakthroughs into practical applications. With a budget of €95.5 billion for 2021–2027, it is one of the world's largest public investments in research and innovation. Israel is an associated country, enabling Israeli organisations to participate on broadly equal terms with entities from EU Member States. By 2026, Israeli participants had secured €1.2 billion in EU grants. Cooperation spans fields including health, ICT, advanced manufacturing, biotechnology, climate and the green and digital transitions.

An even greater opportunity ahead. The European Commission has proposed a **€175 billion budget for Horizon Europe 2028–2034**, almost double the original allocation for the current program. With expanded investment in scientific excellence, strategic technologies, competitiveness, innovation and security, the next program presents significant opportunities for Israeli researchers and companies to deepen cooperation with European partners and turn innovation into shared economic and strategic benefits.

ELNET EU & NATO: turning dialogue into partnership. Situated at the heart of European policymaking in Brussels, ELNET EU & NATO is uniquely positioned to engage with representatives of all 27 EU member states, as well as key European and transatlantic institutions. Led by an international board and Executive Director Matthijs Schüssler, the Brussels office brings together policymakers, diplomats, military and security officials, experts and other decision-makers from across Europe, Israel and beyond.

Through annual strategic dialogues, high-level seminars, conferences and roundtables,

ELNET provides a platform to examine issues of shared concern, from counter-terrorism and cyber cooperation to regional security and Middle East stability. The office also maintains strategic partnerships with several European think tanks, contributing to broader European and transatlantic policy discussions.

A network with a common purpose. ELNET's strength lies in its ability to connect people, perspectives and expertise across countries. As a central hub in Brussels, the EU & NATO office serves as a bridge between Israel and all 27 EU Member States, fostering dialogue and cooperation across the European network.

Each ELNET office brings its own regional insight and relationships, while contributing to a shared mission: to deepen understanding, build trust and advance constructive Europe-Israel cooperation. This relationship is strongest when grounded not only in shared interests, but also in sustained human connections and a clear sense of common purpose.



Matthijs Schüssler

CEO | ELNET EU & NATO (Brussels)

Matthijs Schüssler is the CEO of ELNET EU&NATO in Brussels. In this capacity, he works on engaging leaders to advance the relationship between the EU, NATO, and Israel, based on shared democratic values and common interests.

Matthijs started his career as an attorney at law at Loyens & Loeff in Amsterdam and was admitted to the Dutch Bar Association. As an attorney at law, Matthijs focused on international corporate M&A, private equity, and real estate work, focusing on mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, and general corporate representation. After several years as an attorney at law, Matthijs served as legal advisor and secretary of the national board of the Christian Democratic Party in the Netherlands (CDA). Whereafter, he moved to Brussels to the European Parliament, to work as head of office for a Dutch Member of Parliament for the European People's Party (EPP). In this capacity, he dealt with big legislative files in the Transport and Budget Committee, trade agreements in the International Trade Committee, and the China Delegation. Matthijs is also a lecturer on ethics and integrity in politics at the Eduardo Frei Foundation. In that capacity, he works in cooperation with American and European partners on the development of democracy in Eastern and Central Europe and the MENA region.

Words from the President ★★★

A Shared Commitment to a Stronger Israel-Europe Partnership

On the occasion of the ELNET Jerusalem Summit 2026, I would like to extend my warm congratulations to all our ELNET offices and teams across Europe and Israel.

This outstanding event reflects the remarkable spirit of cooperation that brings together our teams across Europe and Israel. It is the result of months of joint efforts, shared dedication, and close coordination, and a reflection of the collective work carried out throughout the year to strengthen relations between Israel and Europe.

I am particularly proud of the exceptional people who make up our organization. Their professionalism, mutual support, and shared commitment are among ELNET's greatest strengths. The close collaboration between our offices is a defining feature of our organization and an important part of its success.

I also wish to express my deep appreciation to our Board members, donors, and partners, whose trust, generosity, and continued support make our achievements possible.

I remain firmly convinced that strong relations between Israel and Europe are vital to the long-term interests and future of both. Despite political tensions, differences of opinion, and occasional misunderstandings, the importance of this relationship should never be underestimated.

Strengthening these ties requires patience, consistency, and sustained engagement. This is the valuable contribution ELNET makes every day.

My sincere thanks to the entire ELNET family for their remarkable work and dedication. I am proud of what we have accomplished together and confident in what lies ahead.



Ambassador David F. Siegel

President, Friends of ELNET (ELNET-US)

Ambassador David Siegel is President of Friends of ELNET (ELNET-US) and a former senior Israeli diplomat. He served as Israel's Consul General in Los Angeles from 2011 to 2017 and held several senior positions at Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A former CEO of ELNET-Israel, he has extensive experience in international diplomacy and strengthening relations between Israel, Europe, and the United States.

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