



Israel Survey

Germany 2020

55 Years of Diplomatic Relations – Status Quo, Expectations, and Visions for the Future

Preface

Germany and Israel look back on 55 years of diplomatic relations. Today, common interests and values bind the two countries together, adding another layer to a relationship that has the Federal Republic's historical responsibility for Israel and its safety at its center.

In this context, ELNET Germany conducted its second Israel Survey among German parliamentarians. In total, 240 members of the German Bundestag as well as the parliaments of Germany's constituent federal states participated.

The study offers an overview of current views and highlights expectations and perspectives for the future. Of those surveyed, a clear majority (75 percent) speak in favour of closer cooperation with Israel. In a similar vein, most MPs (77 percent) approve of the normalization of diplomatic relations between Israel and Arab states and call for closer German involvement in facilitating this process.

A clear mandate for the German government.

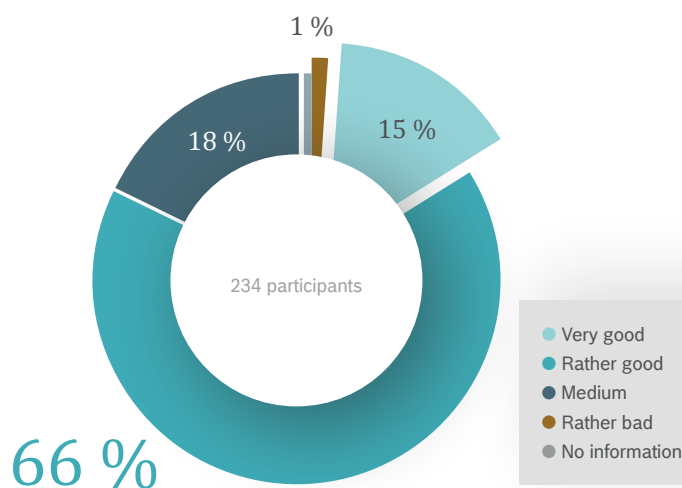

Carsten Owens

Executive Director, ELNET Germany

Bilateral relations in good shape

How would you rate the current state of German-Israeli relations?

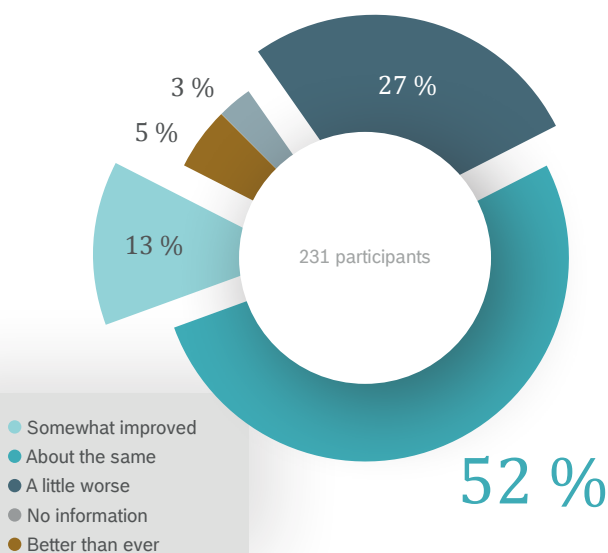
- Overall, 81 percent of German MPs rate the bilateral relations as very good or rather good.
- Perceptions among members of the Bundestag (87 percent, n=55) are more positive than among members of state parliaments (79 percent, n=179).
- There is a difference of 13 percent between members of Germany's state parliaments who have visited Israel (86 percent) and those who have not yet been to Israel (73 percent) when answering this question.



But MPs also feel that the relationship has stagnated

To what extent have German-Israeli relations changed over the last five years?

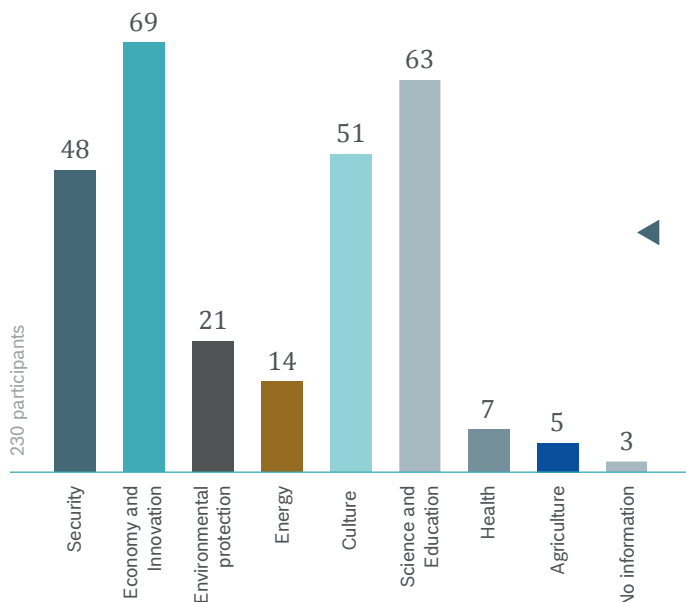
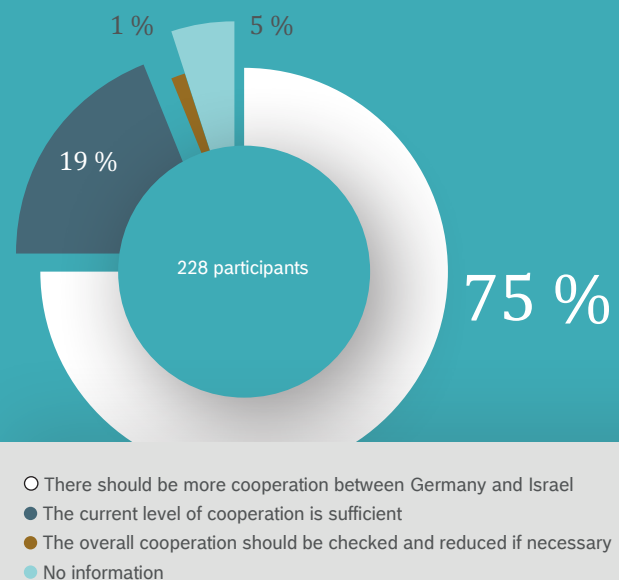
- While 81 percent of all German MPs perceive bilateral relations to be in good shape, a significant number also observe recent stagnation and deterioration.
- Overall, 52 percent of German MPs believe that German-Israeli relations have not changed over recent years (Bundestag: 35 percent, n=52).
- Members of the Bundestag (44 percent) even perceive a slight deterioration (overall 27 percent of German MPs do).



However, MPs want to see closer cooperation

How would you evaluate Germany's current cooperation with Israel?

- In light of a perceived slight deterioration of bilateral relations, 75 percent believe there should be more cooperation.
- Support for more cooperation even stronger among MPs from the Bundestag (83 percent, n=52).
- Positive correlation with visit to Israel: members of state parliaments who have been to Israel show stronger support for deepening cooperation (82 percent) than those who have not been to Israel yet (65 percent).



Areas for closer cooperation

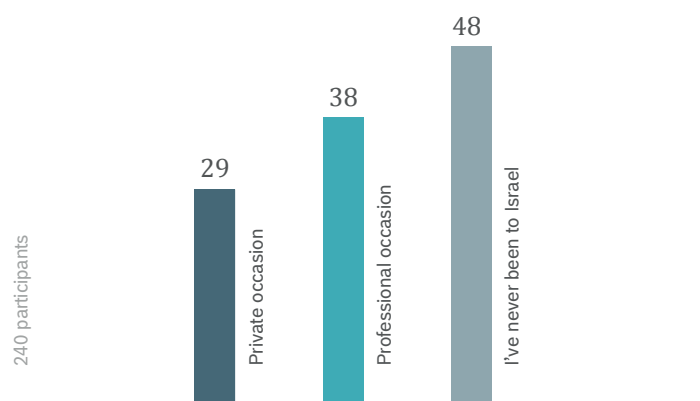
In which areas would you like to see particularly close cooperation? (Up to 3 answers possible)

- Overall, German MPs aim for close cooperation in innovation, science, culture, and security.
- Innovation is seen as the most relevant field for members of the Bundestag (78.85 percent), followed by security (67.31 percent).
- Members of state parliaments focus on science (66.85 percent) and innovation (65.73 percent).

Travelling fosters friendship

Have you already been to Israel in a private or professional fashion? (Multiple answers possible)

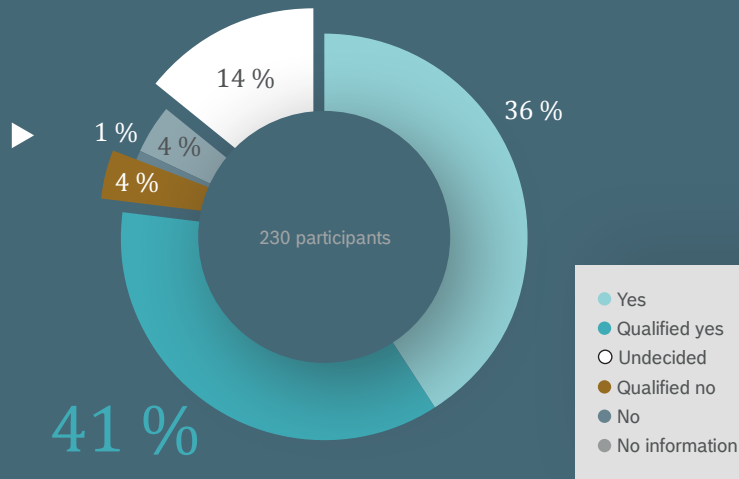
- Overall, 47.5 percent of German MPs have not visited Israel yet.
- 49.15 percent (Bundestag, n=59) and 34.81% (State Parliaments, n=181) of MPs have visited Israel professionally.
- Private visits are less common: 38.18 percent of MPs (Bundestag) respectively 25.41 percent (State Parliaments) have visited Israel privately.



German MPs support normalization

Do you think that Germany should play a bigger role in the Middle East and become more active in fostering peace and cooperation between Arab states and Israel?

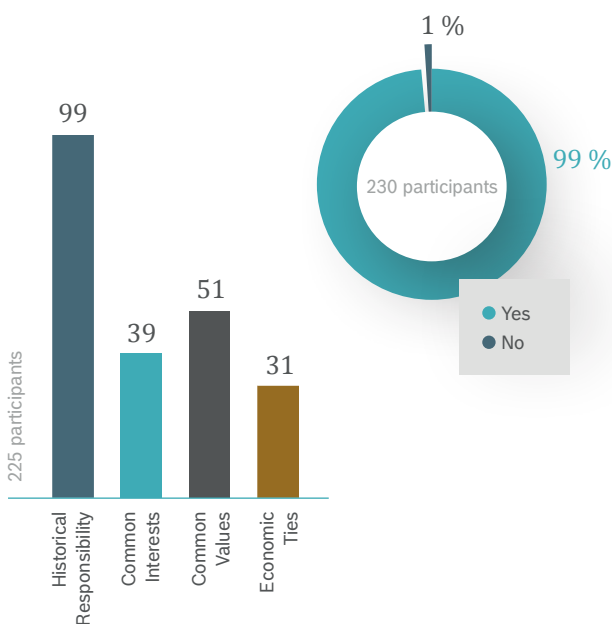
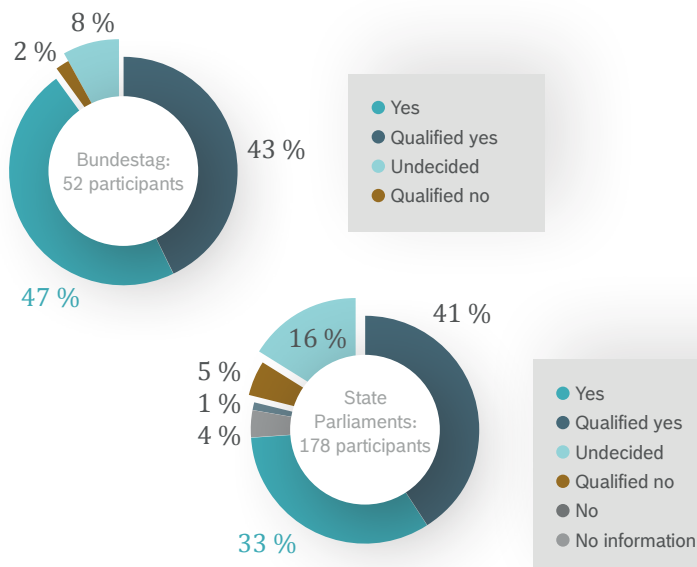
- High support for active involvement by Germany in the normalization processes between Israel and Arab states.
- 77 percent vote yes/qualified yes.
- Only 5 percent vote no/qualified no.
- Positive correlation with visit to Israel: Members of the Bundestag who have been to Israel show stronger support for closer engagement (94 percent) than those who have not been to Israel yet (65 percent).



Clear Bundestag desire for closer German engagement

Members of the Bundestag have an even stronger focus on Germany's involvement in the Middle East.

- 90 percent of Members of the Bundestag support stronger German engagement in the context of the normalization process between Arab states and Israel.
- 74 percent of members of state parliaments also support this demand.



The meaning of relations with Israel

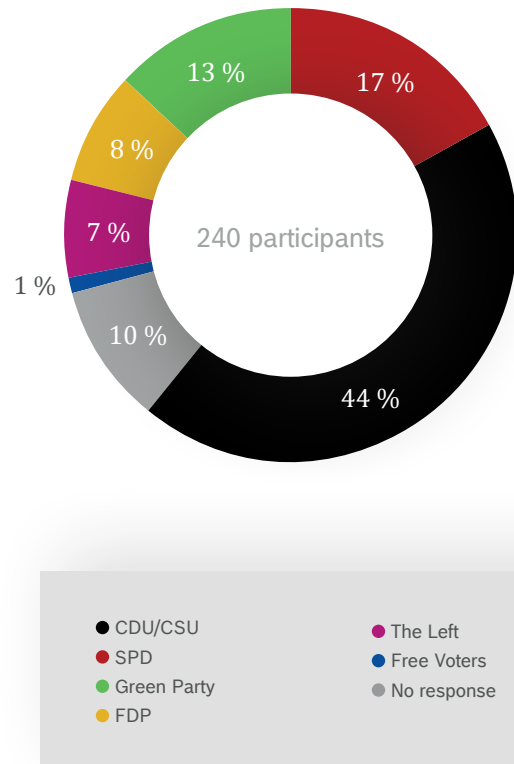
Are relations with Israel particularly important for Germany compared to those with other countries? (Multiple answers possible)

- German MPs responded with yes almost unanimously.
- Historical responsibility the main reason for almost all German MPs.
- Common values ranked second with differing views among MPs from Bundestag (71.15 percent, n=52) and state parliaments (45.09 percent, n=173).
- Common interests ranked third overall, but seen more as a reason by MPs from the Bundestag (50 percent vs. 35,84 percent), while members of state parliaments tended to prioritize economic issues (32.37 percent vs. 25 percent).

Survey data

For the second time, ELNET-Germany conducted the Israel Survey among German Members of Parliament.

- 580 Members of the Bundestag and 1,580 members of state parliaments were invited to take part and were reminded twice (all factions except for the AfD).
- 59 Members of the Bundestag and 181 members of state parliaments participated.
- This amounts to a participation rate of 10.2 percent for Members of the Bundestag and 11.5 percent for members of state parliaments.
- The participation rate increased significantly compared with 2019.
 - 2019: 28 participants (CDU/CSU 50 percent; SPD 18 percent; FDP 11 percent; The Left 11 percent; Green Party 11 percent).
- The survey was conducted between 26 October-22 November (members of the Bundestag) and 26 October-24 November (members of state parliaments).



Summary

Points to take away

- 77 percent of MPs would like to see closer German engagement with the Middle East (with a focus on the normalization process).
 - Positive correlation with visit to Israel: 94 percent of those members of the Bundestag who have been to Israel agree, whereas only 78 percent of those who have not visited Israel do.
- 75 percent of MPs favour closer cooperation with Israel (in particular in the areas business and innovation, security, and science and education).
 - Positive correlation with visit to Israel: 82 percent of members of state parliaments who have been to Israel agree, whereas only 65 percent of those who have not visited Israel do.

Relations with Israel

- 99.9 percent of MPs consider relations with Israel to be special.
- Historical responsibility seen as the most important factor, followed by common values and interests.
- 81 percent of MPs rate the relations as good, while 79 percent believe that they have stagnated or even deteriorated over recent years.
- 47.5 percent of MPs have not visited Israel thus far (more than 50 percent of members of state parliaments).

About ELNET

- Awareness of ELNET increased by almost 50 percent compared to 2019.
- 69 percent of members of the Bundestag know ELNET's work well or rather well.
- 67 percent found ELNET's most recent publication "Perspektive Israel" to be helpful or very helpful.

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