



ELNET-Israel's Monthly Newsletter

A Review of Activities & Analysis on Europe-Israel Related Matters

Policy Analysis

ELNET's Critical Role in Time of Crisis
Dr. Emmanuel Navon, CEO of ELNET-Israel



Dear Friends,

You are reading this monthly newsletter as Israel is in the midst of an unprecedented and cataclysmic crisis. Never in the seventy-five years of its modern history has Israel reached such a societal boiling point. For twelve consecutive weeks, huge demonstrations have taken place consistently and in growing numbers around the country against the government's controversial plan to overhaul Israel's judicial system. Investors have pulled out their money, and high-tech companies have relocated or threatened to do so. The shekel has plunged. Pilots and reserve officers have warned they might not show up for duty. Justice Minister Yariv Levin has declared that the government would ignore the supreme court...

Read Full Analysis Below

ELNET Activities This Month



ELNET holds the first ever Romania-Israel Strategic Dialogue



Meeting with Members of the Chamber of Deputies of the Romanian Parliament



Breakfast meeting hosted by the Ambassador of Israel to Romania



ELNET-Israel CEO Emmanuel Navon welcomes French Delegation



Head of the France-Israel Knesset Friendship Group Yossi Taieb meets French Delegates



ELNET hosts exclusive private event for European Diplomats and Policymakers



An intimate conversation - Zohar Palti shares insights



Inauguration ceremony for the re-opening of the Davidson Center



ELNET-Israel CEO meets with the Chargé d'Affaires of Kosovo to Israel

1st Romania-Israel Strategic Dialogue: This month ELNET hosted the first ever Romania-Israel Strategic Dialogue. The Dialogue focused on the shared strategic challenges for Israel, Romania and Europe at large and future opportunities for cooperation. The panels included critical and timely conversation about Israeli and Romanian strategic environments, the war in Ukraine, the Black Sea, energy and food security, and the involvement of superpowers.

Prior to the Dialogue, the program started out with a breakfast meeting hosted by the Ambassador of Israel to Romania, Reuven Azar. It was then followed by a meeting with members of the Chamber of Deputies of the Romanian Parliament. The meeting was organized by MP Pavel Popescu, who we were so pleased to see again in Romania after he participated in our Young Leaders Delegation in Israel last year. There was also a very important meeting with senior members of the Romanian Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defense. Discussions included the threat of Russia-Iran cooperation, as well as opportunities for Romania-Israel partnerships in defense, technology, & tourism.

We have no doubt that this first Strategic Dialogue will help to advance the level of understanding and cooperation in various important strategic and diplomatic fields for the benefit of both countries, as well as for the region, and serve as a new

French Delegation: ELNET hosted a delegation of 15 Members of the French Parliament from the Les Républicains Party. The delegation was led by the party's former VP, Aurélien Pradié. The delegation received briefings from security officials, which provided valuable insight into Israel's security situation and the challenges it faces. The delegation also met with members of the Israeli coalition & opposition, including Speaker of the Knesset Amir Ohana, Head of the France-Israel Knesset Friendship Group, MK Yossi Taieb, MK Boaz Bismuth, and former Minister of Energy, MK Karine ELharrar. Additionally, the French MPs had the opportunity to meet with innovation leaders, which will help foster cooperation between France and Israel in the areas of science and technology.

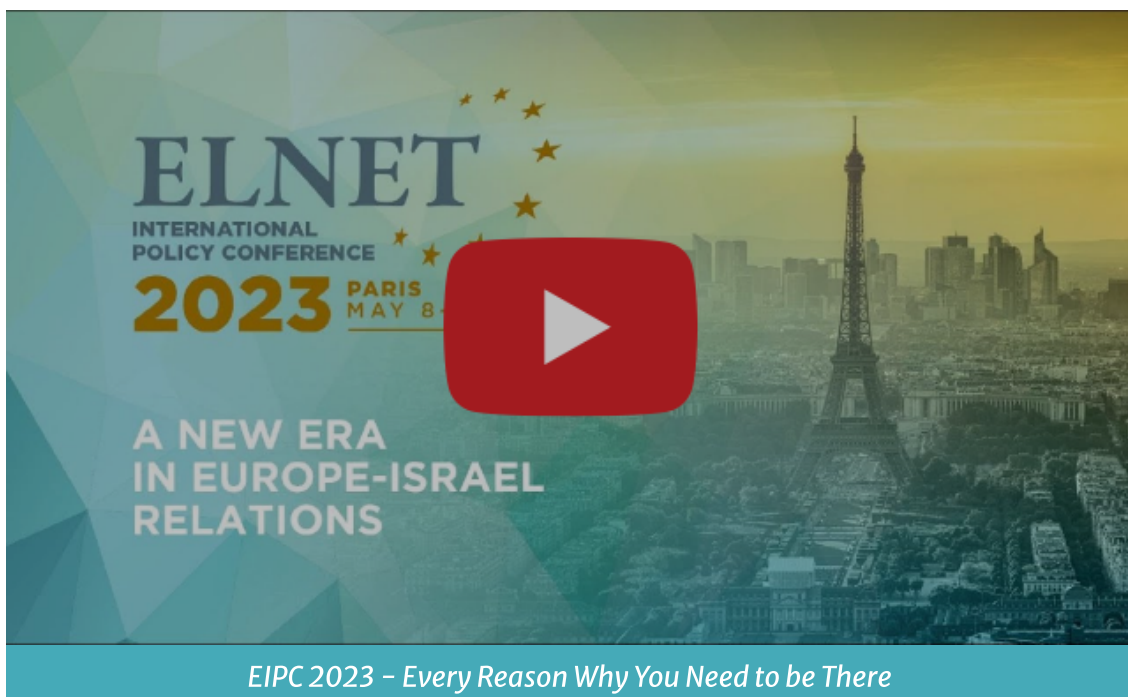
European Ambassadors Event: ELNET hosted a private evening for an intimate conversation on Israel's key challenges and opportunities, as well as cooperation with Europe. The event brought together European Ambassadors to Israel from Albania, Austria, Ireland, Kosovo, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Romania, Spain, and Switzerland. In addition, the delegation of Members of the French Parliament partook in the event, as well as select ELNET supporters.

ELNET brought Zohar Palti, Former Head of the Political-Military Bureau of Israel's Ministry of Defense and former head of the Intelligence Directorate of the Mossad to lead the conversation and share his insights. The setting of the private event and the select group of attendees from diplomatic and legislative positions allowed for a valuable and fruitful conversation with a range of perspectives. Thank you to ELNET-Israel Board Member, Sani Sanilevich, for graciously hosting this event at his private executive lounge.

Davidson Foundation: ELNET was proud to have partook in the inauguration ceremony for the re-opening of the Davidson Center in Jerusalem. The ceremony included introducing to the display an ancient coin bearing the oldest-known depiction of the Temple menorah (candelabrum). ELNET thanks the Davidson Foundation for supporting our work of strengthening Europe-Israeli relations.

Kosovo Chargé d'Affaires: ELNET-Israel CEO Emmanuel Navon met with the Chargé d'Affaires of Kosovo to Israel, Ines Demiri in Kosovo's embassy in Jerusalem. We are excited to share that Kosovo will participate in our upcoming European Summit on Energy & Renewables, to take place in Albania this summer. As an almost entirely Muslim country that is both pro-Israel and pro-West, Kosovo is an important ally for Israel and ELNET is proud to work to strengthen relations.

Latest Video Releases





Friends of ELNET Online Briefing Series – Emergency Briefing: Israel In Turmoil with ELNET-Israel CEO, Dr. Emmanuel Navon

EIPC Confirmed Speakers

ELNET's 3rd International Policy Conference

click on an image to register



ELNET
INTERNATIONAL
POLICY CONFERENCE
2023 PARIS
MAY 8-10

**CONSTITUTIONAL
DEBATES IN
EUROPE AND
ISRAEL**

MK Gideon Sa'ar
Member, Foreign Affairs and
Defense Committee, former
Minister of Justice and
Deputy Prime Minister

#EIPC23 #AskingTheRightQuestions

ELNET
INTERNATIONAL
POLICY CONFERENCE
2023 PARIS
MAY 8-10

**INTERNATIONAL LAW
& THE ISRAELI-
PALESTINIAN
CONFLICT: EXPOSING
DOUBLE STANDARDS**

**Col. (res.) Adv. Pnina
Sharvit Baruch**
Senior Researcher and
Head, Program on Law and
National Security, Institute
for National Strategic
Studies (INSS)

#EIPC23 #AskingTheRightQuestions

ELNET
INTERNATIONAL
POLICY CONFERENCE
2023 PARIS
MAY 8-10

**SPEAKER
CONFIRMED**

Gen. John R. Allen
Retired U.S. Marine Corps
four-star general and former
commander of the NATO
International Security
Assistance Force (ISAF) and
U.S. Forces in Afghanistan

#EIPC23 #AskingTheRightQuestions

ELNET
INTERNATIONAL
POLICY CONFERENCE
2023 PARIS
MAY 8-10

**SPEAKER
CONFIRMED**

**THE IHRA
DEFINITION - STILL
A LONG WAY TO
GO?**

Amb. Dani Dayan
Chairman, Yad Vashem

#EIPC23 #AskingTheRightQuestions

ELNET
INTERNATIONAL
POLICY CONFERENCE
2023 PARIS
MAY 8-10

**SPEAKER
CONFIRMED**

**THE EVOLUTION
OF TERRORIST
THREATS:
PERSPECTIVES
FROM EUROPE,
ISRAEL AND
MOROCCO**

MK Merav Ben Ari
Member, National Security
Committee of the Knesset

#EIPC23 #AskingTheRightQuestions

ELNET
INTERNATIONAL
POLICY CONFERENCE
2023 PARIS
MAY 8-10

**SPEAKER
CONFIRMED**

**ARE WE READY
FOR THE NEW
WORLD ORDER?**

Zvi Vapni
Senior Foreign Policy
Advisor · Office of the
President of the state of
Israel

#EIPC23 #AskingTheRightQuestions

Policy Analysis

ELNET's Critical Role in Time of Crisis

Dr. Emmanuel Navon, CEO of ELNET-Israel

You are reading this monthly newsletter as Israel is in the midst of an unprecedented and cataclysmic crisis. Never in the seventy-five years of its modern history has Israel reached such a societal boiling point. For twelve consecutive weeks, huge demonstrations have taken place consistently and in growing numbers around the country against the government's controversial plan to overhaul Israel's judicial system. Investors have pulled out their money,

duty.

Justice Minister Yariv Levin has declared that the government would ignore the supreme court were it to strike down its controversial legislation. Former Supreme Court Justice Menachem Mazuz responded that the army and police should obey the court and defy the government in the case of a constitutional crisis. Former Prime Minister Ehud Barak has called for civil disobedience. President Isaac Herzog has warned of the danger of civil war and has proposed a [compromise on judicial reform](#) (not dissimilar from the one I had proposed in [ELNET's February newsletter](#)) a compromise which the government rejected out of hand.

Concerned by the brewing mutiny in the IDF and by Israel's daunting security challenges, Defense Minister Yoav Galant made a public statement imploring his government to suspend legislation and to restore national unity. He was fired on the spot. As a result, demonstrations have redoubled, and the country's largest labor union has declared a general strike. Meanwhile, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah has prided himself with having perpetrated the first terror attack within Israel's borders since the 2006 Lebanon War – an attack which has remained unretaliated by Israel. Saudi Arabia, which Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had claimed would soon normalize relations with Israel, has instead normalized relations with Iran. Netanyahu's planned trip to the UAE was cancelled (by the Emiratis), and the White House has yet to extend an official invitation to Israel's Prime Minister after three months in office.

Adding insult to injury, Israeli ministers keep making provocative statements. Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich declared that the Palestinian village of Huwara should be razed; Transportation Minister Miri Regev said she didn't like Dubai and wouldn't go back; Information Minister Galit Distel Atbaryan has claimed that anti-government demonstrations in Israel are funded by Iran and by Germany; the Minister of National Missions (whatever that is) Orit Strook told the U.S. Government to mind its own business after the State Department summoned Israel's ambassador to complain about a new bill cancelling the 2005 disengagement plan. Israel's friends abroad understandably watch in disbelief this self-inflicted series of blunders.

In such troubled times, ELNET's role is more challenging and more critical than ever. It is telling that all of Netanyahu's overseas trips since the formation of the current government have been to Europe (Paris, Rome, Berlin, and London). As Iran benefits from the backing of China and Russia, and as these two powers coordinate their moves to undermine the U.S.-led order, Israel can only rely on the West to face Iran and its proxies. European governments are more receptive to Israel's concerns as Eastern Europe faces Russian aggression and as Russia upgrades its military ties with Iran. The EU, France, Germany, and the UK are signatories of the JCPOA (the nuclear deal with Iran) and have significant economic leverage on Iran.

France and the UK are permanent, veto-wielding members of the UN Security Council. The two countries are Europe's most significant military powers, and both have nuclear weapons. Their respective naval fleets are present in the Eastern Mediterranean and in the Persian Gulf. France has a large army with global reach, with military bases and overseas territories stretching from the Caribbean to the Pacific. With its 264 embassies and missions, France runs the world's third-biggest diplomatic network after China (275) and America (267). France has increased its planned defense spending for 2024-30 by over a third, to €413bn (\$437bn), compared with 2019-25.

On March 10, French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak held a summit in Paris to discuss security coordination. The two countries' armies work together, notably as part of a NATO battlegroup in Estonia. The Combined Joint Expeditionary Force (CJEF), set up by Britain and France in 2010, has the capability to deploy 10,000 troops in times of crisis.

many, the world's fourth largest economy, its defense minister announced this month that it was about to sign a Letter of Intent (LOI) to purchase Israel's Arrow 3 missile defense system. ELNET is proud to have played a critical role in the fruition of this important deal.

While Italy is less of a military and diplomatic heavyweight, it is an important player in the Mediterranean thanks in part to its naval fleet and to its historical ties with Libya. There were concerns about the foreign policy of the Meloni Government (sworn in in October 2022) because of the pro-Putin credentials of Matteo Salvini (one of Mrs. Meloni's coalition partners). However, Prime Minister Meloni has turned out to be a reliable NATO ally, an outspoken supporter of Ukraine, and a friend of Israel.

As is apparent from this month's newsletter, ELNET-Israel is working hard to capitalize on Israel's opportunities in Europe in these challenging times. We are committed to our mission, and we thank you for your support.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Delegation from the Institute of Advanced Studies in National Defense (IHEDN), France
- Delegation of Young Political Leaders in partnership with the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- GINSUM Delegation on AgriTech
- Israel Philharmonic Concert to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising - ELNET is one of the partners
- Brussels Forum - ELNET is one of the partners
- Delegation of Policymakers from the Baltic States
- Delegation of Lords from the UK
- Herzliya Conference - ELNET is a partner and will be hosting a roundtable
- ELNET's 3rd International Policy Conference

For More ELNET Content and Activities Follow Us:



[view this email in your browser](#)

Copyright © 2023 ELNET Europe Israel, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you expressed interest in ELNET's activities.

Our mailing address is:

ELNET Europe Israel
13 Tuval Street
Ramat Gan 5252228
Israel

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

