



EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP NETWORK

ELNET-Israel's Monthly Newsletter

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

Restoring Hope

Dr. Emmanuel Navon, CEO of ELNET-Israel



Dear Friends,

For this July newsletter, allow me to write something personal.

On July 1st I started working full-time for ELNET-Israel (I had been working part-time since being appointed as CEO in January 2023, due to my teaching schedule). This change, which enables me to dedicate myself entirely to our organization's achievements and growth, coincides with the departure of our former COO, Omri Attar. Omri was accepted to the Wexner Israel Fellowship at Harvard University. Once he completes his master's degree in public administration, Omri will pursue other professional opportunities. On behalf of ELNET-Israel, I have thanked Omri for his contribution to our organization, and I have wished him well on his future endeavours...

Read Full Analysis Below

ELNET Activities This Month



UK Journalists Delegation visits an Iron Dome aerial defense battery



UK journalists are briefed by Israel Police on counterterrorism at Mabat 2000



UK journalists Delegation visit the Kerem Shalom border crossing with Gaza



Labour Parliamentary Advisors Delegation visits underground blood bank



Labour Parliamentary Advisors Delegation visits Save a Child's Heart



ELNET-CEE organizes crisis management training course in Poland



ELNET wishes farewell to outgoing French Ambassador to Israel, Eric Danon

Delegation of Journalists: ELNET hosted a delegation of journalists from the UK in Israel this month. During their trip, the delegates were briefed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesperson Lior Haiat on the operation by the IDF in Jenin to target terror infrastructure, by the Israeli Police International Cooperation Unit Superintendent Micky Rosenfeld on counter terrorism, they met with Co-Chair of the Knesset Israel-UK Parliamentary Friendship Group MK Hanoch Milwidsky to discuss the current Israeli political and security situation, and visited an Iron Dome Battery and the Kerem Shalom border crossing with Gaza where goods were being processed despite rockets being fired at Israel hours earlier. Additionally, the journalists had a roundtable discussion with leading Israeli journalists from across the board, met with CAMERA, and toured the i24News studio in order to better understand the complexities of accurate news reporting from within and about the Middle East. Following the delegation several of the journalists published articles and podcasts about their experience in Israel with ELNET.

Parliamentary Advisors Delegation: ELNET brought a delegation to Israel of parliamentary advisors to UK Labour Party members of parliament. This was a first delegation of its kind focused on strengthening the UK Labour Party's relations with Israel. During their trip the delegates visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Knesset, a meeting with the Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem Fleur Hassan Nahum who spoke about co-existence, a meeting with ELNET-Israel Board Member and former MK Dr. Einat Wilf to talk about challenges and opportunities in Israel, a tour of the new underground Magen David Adom blood bank, a meeting at Save A Child's Heart, an Israeli initiative for providing life-saving pediatric heart surgeries for children from developing countries, and a meeting with the UK Embassy in Israel. In addition they toured the southern border of Israel with Gaza, were briefed by the IDF at an Iron Dome battery, and heard first hand from Israeli residents of the South about life under the constant threat of rockets.

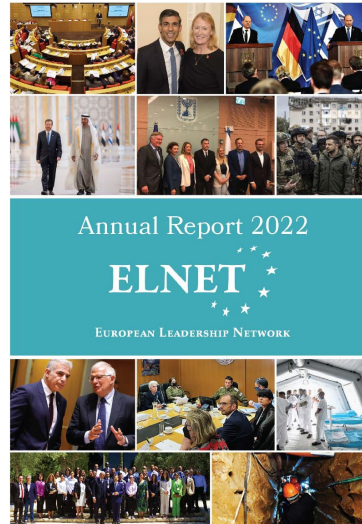
Crisis Management Training Course in Poland: ELNET hosted a two-day training course on crisis management and mass casualty incidents at Specialist Hospital in Wejherowo, Poland. The training course was held in collaboration with experts from the Rambam Health Care Campus in Haifa, including the Rambam Director General Professor Michael Halberthal. The course utilized Israeli experience in crisis management with an emphasis on preventive actions and time-tested solutions. This training was oriented towards developing procedures for mass-casualty incidents, and was the first of its kind in Poland.

Farewell to Ambassador of France to Israel: ELNET held a farewell gathering for the outgoing Ambassador of France to Israel, Eric Danon, and his wife Marie. At the event which was attended by the CEO's of ELNET-Israel and ELNET-France, along with other select guests, speakers thanked the Ambassador for his tremendous work in strengthening the relations between France and Israel.

Latest Reports

ELNET is proud to share its 2022 Annual Report. During 2022 ELNET engaged close to 600 top decision-makers in its policy programs and reached an audience of close to 3,400 participants from the broader policy community. We led and took part in 18 delegations to Israel, nine visits to Europe, seven in-person, hybrid, and online conferences, seven briefings, five Strategic Dialogues, and nine roundtables and seminars. We had an additional 2,400+ participants in GINSUM, GIHF-AI, "Words Matter" events, workshops, and networking events.

To learn more about ELNET's achievements and work, read the [Summary of ELNET's Annual Report for 2022](#).



The 3rd ELNET International Policy Conference (EIPC), held in May 2023 in Paris was a major success. The conference's theme this year was "A New Era in Europe-Israel Relations." Considered by some as the most important and largest pro-Israel conference in Europe, the EIPC brought together some 450 participants and 80 speakers considered some of the most influential policymakers and leading public opinion-makers from Europe, Israel, the US, Canada, and Arab countries to discuss and impact the shaping of Europe's Middle East policy and Europe-Israel relations.

To read more about ELNET's EIPC conference see the [ELNET EIPC 2023 Summary Report](#).



ELNET in the Press



The Jerusalem Post
[Europe is in the midst of a revolution and Israel must chart a new path](#)

Interview with ELNET-Israel CEO, Dr.

Emmanuel Navon

Coalition steps up attack on Israeli Bar Association after preliminary bill passes

In an interview with Jewish News, Likud's Hanoch Milwidsky, the prime mover behind plans to effectively disband the IBA, branded it "unregulated and irrelevant" and questioned how it spends £21m of annual fees.

By **RICHARD FERRER IN JERUSALEM**

Jewish News

[Coalition steps up attack on Israeli Bar Association after preliminary bill passes](#)

By Richard Ferrer, following participation in the UK Journalists Delegation

The Sunday Guardian



The Sunday Guardian

[A rare voice of reason in Israel's divided society](#)

By John Dobson, following participation in the UK Journalists Delegation



TVP World - Polish News Channel

[Military operation in Jenin continues](#)

News interview with ELNET-Israel Spokesman, Daniel Shadmy

Restoring Hope

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I am writing this newsletter the day after Tisha B'av (the 9th of Av) – a day of mourning and fasting in the Jewish calendar. The month of Av marks not only the destruction of the First and Second Temples (in 586 BCE and 70 CE respectively) and the end of Jewish national sovereignty, but also other and subsequent disasters. These include the First Crusade in 1096 (24th of Av), the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492 (7th of Av), Germany's entry into World War I (9th of Av), the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact in 1939 (8th of Av), and the beginning of mass deportations of Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto to Treblinka in 1942 (9th of Av).

On the Shabbat that follows Tisha B'av, we read from the 40th chapter of the Book of Isaiah: "Comfort my people, comfort them." Throughout Jewish history we have risen up from disasters, and we never lose hope. In the modern State of Israel the day of remembrance for our fallen soldiers is followed by celebrating Independence Day. On a personal level, this year the post-Tisha B'av period has a special meaning for me: exactly 30 years ago I moved to Israel and made 'Aliya'

on my own (on the 10th of Av). I feel blessed to have since then become a father and a grandfather, and privileged to be able to impact Israel's foreign relations - thanks to ELNET.

On a national level, however, Israel is going through a crisis. Last week, the Knesset passed an amendment to Basic Law: The Judiciary (1984) that rescinds the High Court of Justice's ability to review government decisions, as well decisions by the prime minister and cabinet members (including administrative appointments), based on the 'reasonableness' criterion. Negotiations did take place between the coalition and the opposition on a softer version of that amendment but fell through.

The softer version of the bill would have limited the court's ability to use the reasonableness doctrine for reviewing government decisions, but would have maintained it for decisions by the prime minister and cabinet members, including on the appointment and discharge of high civil servants. Such a compromise would have given preference to the decisions of elected officials over that of judges, but it would not have given shield to politicians who seek to make corrupt appointments, capricious dismissals, or arbitrary decisions. The amendment approved last week by 53% of Knesset members (elected by 48.38% of the popular vote) removes the reasonableness test from judicial review in its entirety.

Despite the amendment on reasonableness, the High Court of Justice can still review and strike down government decisions for being illegal or for not meeting other criteria of administrative law such as proportionality, the prohibition on discrimination, conflict of interests, extraneous considerations, bias, and lack of good faith. In and of itself, the amendment therefore only narrows the scope of judicial review. However, this amendment has raised public concerns due to the government's motivations and intentions.

With the removal of the reasonableness doctrine, former Interior Minister Aryeh Deri could theoretically be reappointed to the cabinet (his appointment in the current government had been overruled by the Court for being "unreasonable to the extreme" due to Deri's past criminal convictions). Communications Minister Shlomo Karhi declared recently that the government cannot fire the Attorney General without first expunging the reasonableness doctrine from the Court's review. Shortly after the Knesset removed the reasonableness test from judicial review, Prime Minister Netanyahu's confidant Yaakov Berdugo tweeted that "Gali [Attorney General Gali Baharav Miara] is out." Commenting on the dramatic Knesset vote last week, Justice Minister Yariv Levin declared that this was but "a first step in the historical process of reforming the judicial system." The day after the vote, the United Torah Judaism party submitted a bill intended to grant constitutional protection to the exemption of the ultra-orthodox community from mandatory military service.

Hence the concern voiced by many Israelis. And hence the concern of Western democracies, including those in Europe, that have called upon the Israeli government to reach a broad consensus and preserve the common values between Israel and Europe. Were the coalition to pursue the judicial overhaul without national consensus, social tensions are likely to reach a boiling point, Israel's credit rating may continue to deteriorate, and the number of reserve officers who refuse to report for duty would increase. The price for non-consensual judicial overhaul is therefore unaffordable. Indeed, it is unreasonable.

ELNET will continue, regardless, to fulfil its mission. I made Aliya thirty years ago to be an actor, not a spectator, in Jewish history. And that history teaches us never to lose hope.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- ELNET partnership in the ICT Conference in Herzliya
- GIHF-AI Annual Conference
- ELNET-UK PTSD and trauma event together with United Hatzala
- French National Assembly delegation
- First E3 Strategic Dialogue
- German State MPs delegation
- Young European Leaders delegation
- German-Israel Strategic Dialogue
- Baltic States delegation
- French Senators delegation
- EU-Israel Strategic Dialogue

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