



EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP NETWORK

ELNET-Israel's Monthly Newsletter

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

Winning the War

Together with Europe

Dr. Emmanuel Navon, CEO of ELNET-Israel



Dear Friends,

2023 will be remembered in Israel as an *annus horribilis*. It began with intense and prolonged division among Israelis following the new government's plan to overhaul the judicial system. It ended with the most horrific terrorist attack in Israel's history, and with an all-out war that is expected to last for months and is being fought on seven fronts (Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Iraq, and Iran). One of these fronts is Yemen, and it's here that Israel's cooperation with Europe is crucial...

Read Full Analysis Below



WISHING ALL OUR FRIENDS

2024

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

may it usher in

PEACE LIGHT HOPE

Join Us on Telegram

Join ELNET's new [Telegram](#) account to follow us for the most up-to-date content and briefings

ELNET Activities This Month



Former French PM Manuel Valls inside high school hit by Hezbollah missile a day prior



Former PM Valls meets with IDF soldiers protecting Israel's northern border



Meeting between Israeli President Herzog and Former French PM Manuel Valls



Solidarity Mission of European leaders at Shura Base for body identification



European MPs at "car cemetery" for hundreds of burned and detonated cars



ELNET hosted the 11th Germany-Israel Strategic Dialogue in Berlin



Discussions at the 11th Germany-Israel Strategic Dialogue on security and policy



ELNET's 'All Together' event in Paris with 1000 participants on war and antisemitism



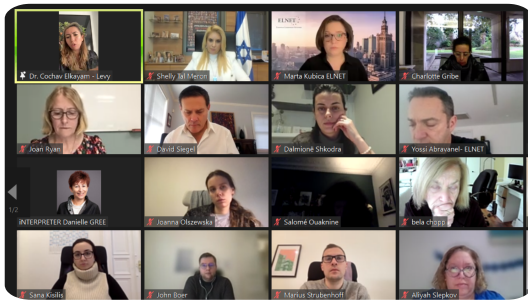
ELNET-Israel CEO speaks on panel at ELNET's "All Together" event in Paris



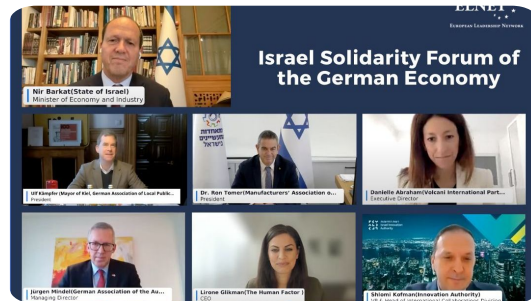
European diplomats and legislators are briefed by ELNET-Israel CEO on ongoing war



ELNET-Israel CEO speaks at event at Netanyahu Academic College alongside Former PM Valls



ELNET emergency webinar exposing Hamas' gender-based violence for European leaders



ELNET's GINSUM program hosts the Israel Solidarity Forum of the German Economy

ELNET continues to bring solidarity missions to Israel: This month ELNET brought more European leaders to Israel to show solidarity with Israel. ELNET hosted 21 policymakers and opinion leaders from Croatia, Cyprus, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, and hosted the first group of Italians brought by ELNET-Italy to Israel. During their visit, the delegates saw the unimaginable evidence of the atrocities committed by Hamas in Israel's south. They met with the family members of the hostages who are still being held by Hamas in Gaza and heard their harrowing stories. They visited the Shura base for body identification where the IDF briefed them on the gruesome task of handling the abused and burned remains of hundreds of bodies of men, women, and children. They saw the piles upon piles of hundreds of incinerated and completely destroyed cars, many with the passengers having been shot to death or burned alive while inside. These burnt-out shells are all that remain as testament to the horrors that took place on the morning of October 7th. They visited injured survivors and heard their accounts of narrowly escaping the deadly attack and the long journey to physical and emotional recovery, as well as met with the families of murdered victims including hi-tech entrepreneur Eyal Waldman. The delegates also had important meetings at the Knesset with Israeli lawmakers and at the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They were briefed by Micky Rosenfeld, Superintendent from the Israel Police International Cooperation Unit who gave the participants a broad overview of the Israeli Police as they were the first respondents and the major force acting on the ground the morning of the October 7th attack. They were also briefed by the former Spokesperson of the IDF, Arye Shalimar on Israel's geostrategic challenges. In addition, the German Ambassador to Israel, Steffen Seibert met with the German delegates to speak about his personal experience in Israel during these challenging times.

Former French PM Visit to Israel's North: For the second time since the Hamas massacre on October 7th, Former Prime Minister of France Manuel Valls visited Israel with ELNET. This trip focused on the threats along Israel's northern border where Iran's proxy Hezbollah continues to attack Israel daily. These intolerable attacks have led to 60,000 Israelis being displaced from their homes for close to three months now. Former Prime Minister Valls saw the carnage resulting from Hezbollah's attacks, including a high school auditorium which was destroyed a day earlier after being hit by a Kornet missile fired by Hezbollah. During the trip Former PM Valls had an important meeting with Israeli President Isaac Herzog. Speaking to IDF soldiers in the north, Valls told them that they are fighting this war 'not only on behalf of Israel, but on behalf of the entire free world. The United States, France, Europe, and all of the West must support Israel who is on the frontlines defending our collective democratic values.'

Germany-Israel Strategic Dialogue: ELNET and its Forum of Strategic Dialogue, together with the German Bundesakademie für Sicherheitspolitik and the Bundeswehr Cyber Innovation Hub (CIHbW) gathered senior policymakers and experts from Germany and Israel for the 11th Germany-Israel Strategic Dialogue in Berlin. The dialogue topics included 'The Hamas-Israel War and after'; 'German Israeli Defence Cooperation after the Zeitenwende and Hamas-Israel War'; and 'Great Power Competition in the Middle East: Europe's Role'. The dialogue was preceded by a special welcome dinner hosted by ELNET-Germany, with a keynote speech by MP Michael Roth, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Bundestag and welcoming remarks from Carsten Ovens, CEO of ELNET-Germany and Amb. Ekkehard Brose, President, Federal Academy for Security Policy. Read more [here](#).

Webinar on Hamas' Gender-Based Violence: ELNET hosted an emergency meeting on the horrific gender-based violence and sexual atrocities committed by Hamas on October 7th against Israeli women. Despite the devastating horrors, the international community, and UN Women in particular, have remained largely silent. ELNET held this event for politicians and women's rights leaders in Europe in order to expose these crimes and condemn them. Speaking at the event were MK Shelly Tal-Meron, a member of the Knesset Committee on the Status of Women, and Dr. Cochav Elkayam-Levi, head of the Civil Commission on Oct. 7th Crimes by Hamas against Women and Children. The Czech Republic Minister of Defense, Jana Černochová, shared an important message by video. The event garnered much welcomed support, and in response ELNET is currently working to further promote this critical issue throughout Europe in the coming weeks across. See full webinar recording below.

Israel Solidarity Forum of the German Economy: ELNET's innovation program GINSUM held an online event for German businesses to show solidarity with Israel. The title of the event was "Israel Solidarity Forum of the German Economy", brought together some 200 business leaders and participants. With the war with Hamas greatly impacting Israel's economy, this event served as a platform for German businesses to express unwavering support and explore avenues for collaboration with Israel. The keynote speaker at the event was Israeli Minister of Economy and Industry, Nir Barkat. See full webinar recording below.

Israel Solidarity Forum of the German Economy: ELNET hosted a conference in Paris titled "Agir Ensemble" – Act Together. The focus of the conference was to address the aftermath of the barbaric attack by Hamas against Israel, in particular the rise of antisemitism and Jew hatred in France. It called on the silent majority to recognize that the democratic values at the core of French society must be defended, and this can only be done by acting together. The conference was an overwhelming success with 1,000 people in attendance to discuss these vital matters. The conference included two roundtables, and speakers included Bruno Tertrais, Fadila Maaroufi, Thibault de Montbrial, Mohamed Sifaoui, Rachel Khan, as well as Former French Ambassador to Israel Eric Danon and ELNET-Israel CEO Emmanuel Navon. Read more [here](#).

Latest Videos





The insurance costs of container shipping

Watch Latest ELNET Briefing on the Israel-Hamas War



MP Aurelijus Veryga

Member of the Lithuanian Parliament

I already told Jill that everything was so

Testimonials from European Members of Parliament about the impact of ELNET's Solidarity Missions


ELNET
European Leadership Network

EXPOSING HAMAS' GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Hamas' brutal gender-violence against Israeli women been met with silence from the international community.

WE MUST BREAK THIS SILENCE AND BRING ATTENTION TO THESE ATROCITIES

ELNET invites European Parliament members to join our online meeting




KEYNOTE: **MINIŠTRKA JAROSLAVA ŠPACHOVÁ**
Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, Czech Republic

SPEAKERS: **MR SHELLY TAL MERON**
Member of the Knesset Committee on the Status of Women and Gender Equality


DR. COHAV ELKAYAM-LEVY
Chair, Civil Commission on Oct. 7th Crimes by Hamas against Women and Children


MODERATOR: **MARTA KUBICA** CEO, ELNET CEE

ELNET's Event - Exposing Hamas' Gender-Based Violence - Full Webinar



Nir Barkat(State of Israel)
Minister of Economy and Industry





Carsten Ovens(ELNET - DACH)
CEO

ELNET
Powered by Zoom

ELNET's Event "Israel Solidarity Forum of the German Economy" - Full Webinar

ELNET in the Press

European Parliamentarians Spurred to Action After Bearing Witness to Hamas' Sick Cruelty

FELICE FRIEDSON



The Media Line

[European Parliamentarians Spurred to Action After Bearing Witness to Hamas' Sick Cruelty](#)

News Item on ELNET's Solidarity Missions and their impact



JNS

[A European MP bears witness to terror](#)

Op-ed by Belgian MP Koen Metsu following his participation on an ELNET Solidarity Mission



The Media Line

[Supt. Micky Rosenfeld to TML: Palestinian Workers in Israel Aided Hamas Terrorists in Planning October 7 Infiltration](#)

ELNET's Solidarity Missions mentioned



JNS

[An 'Abraham Plan' for the Middle East](#)

Op-Ed by German MP Christoph Ploß ahead of ELNET's conference in the Spring

Winning the War Together with Europe

Dr. Emmanuel Navon, CEO of ELNET-Israel

2023 will be remembered in Israel as an *annus horribilis*. It began with intense and prolonged division among Israelis following the new government's plan to overhaul the judicial system. It ended with the most horrific terrorist attack in Israel's history, and with an all-out war that is expected to last for months and is being fought on seven fronts (Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Iraq, and Iran). One of these fronts is Yemen, and it's here that Israel's cooperation with Europe is crucial.

The Houthis, an Iran-backed Shia militia that controls about a quarter of Yemen's territory but a majority of its population, have been firing missiles at Israel since the beginning of the Israel-Hamas war. They have also been shooting and attacking ships crossing the strait of Bab al-Mandab – a narrow and busy maritime corridor for vessels that transit between Europe and Asia via the Red Sea and the Suez Canal. These acts of war are disrupting international trade because 20% of global container volumes pass through the Red Sea.

The world's four largest container-shipping firms have stopped traveling through the Red Sea, and the energy giant British Petroleum (BP) has suspended oil shipments. The insurance costs of container shipping between Europe and Asia are soaring. The Houthis are not a minor nuisance. They control an enormous arsenal of missiles and of drones supplied by Iran. Some of their ballistic missiles have a range of 2,000 km (1,242 miles).

Despite China's strong economic leverage over Iran (it is Iran's largest oil importer), and a large Chinese military base in neighbouring Djibouti, it is doing

precious little to rein in the Houthis. Only the navies of the United States, the United Kingdom, and France have thus far been active in the Bab al-Mandab Strait. The warships of Israel's American and European allies are filling a void in the Red Sea, but the West's expensive surface-to-air missiles cannot eliminate all the Iranian drones operated by the Houthis, and therefore major shipping companies are still avoiding the Red Sea. Striking the Houthis might therefore be unavoidable. The only countries able and willing to do that are the US, the UK, and France.

The involvement of British and French warships against one of Israel's enemies in the Middle East is yet another reminder of why Israel's relations with Europe's major powers are so critical. But the shared struggle against the Houthis also confirms the Middle East's geopolitical divide: not only the West, but also Israel's Arab partners oppose the Houthis. Saudi Arabia has been fighting the Houthis since 2014, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) backs the anti-Houthi "Transitional Council" in southern Yemen. Normalization between Israel and Saudi Arabia may have been suspended because of the war in Gaza, but it will surely resurface.

After the war, Israel will need more European involvement in the Middle East and more cooperation with moderate Arab states. This is why ELNET will host a conference on "the day after" in Paris in the Spring of 2024 to promote new partnerships with Europe and with the Abraham Accords countries, with the aim of building a more secure and a more economically sustainable Middle East after the war, which will hopefully be over –and won— by then.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Pan-European Solidarity Mission to Israel
- UK Solidarity Mission to Israel
- French Delegation of MPs and Senators
- UK Med-Tech Delegation and Strategic Dialogue
- Follow up programming in Poland on Hamas' Gender-Based Crimes
- Ukraine Solidarity Mission to Israel
- Follow up programming in Germany on Hamas' Gender-Based Crimes
- Italian and German Solidarity Mission
- First Defense Delegation from the Baltic States

For More ELNET Content and Activities Follow Us:



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](#).

