

MS Science and Commercial Counsellors Meeting – Minutes

EU DELEGATION – [REDACTED]

Highlights:

1. **Horizon Europe Success:**
 - o Israel excels with an 18.33% success rate in Horizon Europe, ranking 2nd in participation and budget share.
 - o Noteworthy achievements in ERC calls, EIC Accelerator, and substantial funding opportunities in the EIC Work Programme for 2023.
2. **Hamsa Event and Future Plans:**
 - o Ongoing planning for the Hamsa event to discuss communication opportunities and anticipate new collaborations in 2024.
3. **Participation in MSCA and Horizon 2020:**
 - o Active involvement in MSCA and strong participation in Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe's initial calls, securing projects and grants.
4. **City of Eilat in EU Mission:**
 - o City of Eilat has been chosen for the EU Mission, focusing on transforming cities into climate-neutral and smart hubs by 2030.
5. **Regional Cooperation and PRIMA:**
 - o Collaboration with 42 member states in the Union for the Mediterranean, anticipating substantial EU investments.
 - o Contribution to PRIMA with a 4.3% success rate, addressing regional challenges.
6. **EU-Israel Partnership Evaluation:**
 - o Positive evaluation of Israel's engagement and performance in Horizon Europe, with recommendations for increased collaborative actions and involvement of EU Member States.

New Initiatives for 2024:

- o Organizing 3-4 matchmaking events (Bridges) throughout the year with ISERD and EIT Hub
- o Joint Committee on April 15th to assess EU-Israel cooperation.
- o Hamsa event to celebrate cooperation and showcase success stories.
- o Science diplomacy event planned for 2024 if the regional situation allows it.

EIT HUB – [REDACTED]

1. **EIT Hub Israel's slides** from the session are attached herein. You can also find EIT Hub Israel's interactive report on [Israeli technology companies in Europe](#) (current as of 2021).
2. **ESG in Corporates: Catalyzing ESG Strategies Through Innovation Practices:** Join EIT Hub Israel for a special webinar specifically tailored for corporate innovation teams, taking place on **Wednesday, 31 January from 11:00-12:00 CET.**

You are invited to share this opportunity with relevant stakeholders from your network. Registration link - <https://go-eit.eu/eit-israel-hub/disrupt-me/esg-in-corporates-webinar-registration-form/>. Please find the webinar invitation attached.

EU DELEGATION – [REDACTED]

1. Update on policy developments :

The EU presented a set of initiatives adopted on 24 January aimed at strengthening economic security at a time of growing geopolitical tensions, weaponisation of trade and profound technological shifts. The package aims to enhance the EU's economic security while upholding the openness of trade, investment, and research for the EU's economy, in line with the June 2023 European Economic Security Strategy. These proposals are part of a broader three-pillar approach to EU economic security by promoting the EU's competitiveness, protecting against risks and partnering with the broadest possible range of countries to advance shared economic security interests.

The initiatives adopted this week aim at:

- o further strengthening the protection of EU security and public order by proposing improved screening of foreign investment into the EU;
- o stimulating discussions and action for more European coordination in the area of export controls, in full respect of existing multilateral regimes and Member States' prerogatives;
- o consulting Member States and stakeholders to identify potential risks stemming from outbound investments in a narrow set of technologies;
- o promoting further discussions on how to better support research and development involving technologies with dual-use potential;
- o proposing that the Council recommends measures aimed at enhancing research security at national and sector level.

Future EU actions will continue to be informed by the on-going risk assessments and by strategic coordination with Member States to reach a shared understanding of the risks that Europe faces and of the appropriate actions.

1. Regional developments

The UfM Trade Ministerial, planned to take place in October 2023 in Valencia, has been cancelled at short notice. [REDACTED]

2. Trade statistics

According to the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics bilateral EU-Israel trade in goods decreased in October-December 2023, in comparison to the same period in 2022. Year-to-year data show however very similar values in both import and export. We will share the Eurostat data once they are available.

3. Import reform

The Knesset has approved a significant step in the ambitious plan, "What is Good for Europe is Good for Israel," aimed at streamlining imports. The plan is set to be

implemented on July 1, 2024, with an option to postpone it by three months. In Israel, imported goods under the Ministry of Economy & Industry are categorized into four groups based on safety levels, with group 1 comprising items that may pose significant threats to consumer safety. The decision streamlines import procedures for goods in groups 2 and 3, aligning them with EU procedures, while post-market control capabilities are being enhanced. To support this effort, the Ministry has requested a Twinning project from the EU, with Member States required submitting proposals by January 31, 2024.

ISERD – [REDACTED]

ISERD operates as an interministerial directorate under the Israel Innovation Authority, serving as Israel's National Contact Point for engagement in the European Framework Programme. The primary objective is to optimize the advantages of Israel's involvement in the European Framework Programmes by fostering scientific and industrial collaboration within the European research and innovation ecosystem.

Recognizing the inherent synergy between Europe and Israel, we believe in cultivating a mutually beneficial partnership to shape the future through innovation. ISERD is keen on collaborating with the Science and Trade Counsellors from Member States, seeking joint efforts to help the Israeli R&I community identify suitable partners in your respective countries. Our aim is to facilitate matchmaking for Israeli entities, fostering increased collaboration between the two ecosystems.

ISERD actively engages in various dissemination activities, and we would greatly value your support in promoting these initiatives. Additionally, we are deeply connected with the Israeli R&I ecosystem and would be delighted to introduce you to key stakeholders.

Your collaboration and assistance are highly appreciated as we work towards strengthening ties and advancing innovation on an international scale.