

Joint Statement
by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania

and

the Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of
Israel

on Bilateral Cooperation

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, Mr. Petras Vaitiekūnas, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel, Mrs. Tzipi Livni, hereinafter referred to as the "Ministers,"

Stressing the need to intensify the political dialogue between the two Ministries and aiming to further develop cooperation between Lithuania and Israel;

Recognizing the importance of Israel's role in the region and expertise in the regional security policy issues;

Taking note of the membership of Lithuania in the European Union and the forthcoming Lithuanian EU presidency in 2013;

Taking into account the significance of Israel as an important European partner in the region and the aspiration of Israel to upgrade its relationship with the EU within the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and beyond in the European Single Market in jointly identified areas.

Stressing the importance of regional and trans-regional cooperation between the Baltic Sea and the Mediterranean Sea regions;

Have agreed as follows:

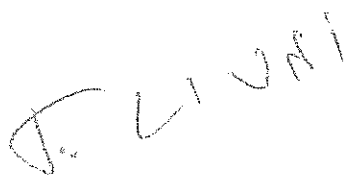
1. The Ministers underline the high importance of strengthening the basis for the development of an enhanced partnership between Lithuania and Israel on the existing substance of positive bilateral cooperation, by means of intensifying the dialogue on a wide range of foreign policy issues of common interest - especially ENP and other relevant EU related issues, regional security policy issues, and transatlantic relations.
2. Other joint ministerial activities in this context shall include:
 - Working together to upgrade Israel's relationship with the EU so that Israel would be further integrated into European activity in three domains: (a) in the political sphere; (b) in joining European

programmes, agencies and working groups; and (c) joining the European Single Market in jointly identified fields.


Complementing the existing bilateral cooperation mechanism between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs with additional annual consultations on topical issues within their competences

- Sharing experiences, information and expertise in the field of the Middle East peace process and other important bilateral, regional, as well as international developments;
- Encouraging and supporting bilateral contacts of Israeli and Lithuanian non-governmental organisations, academic institutions and intellectuals, as well as their initiatives contributing to better understanding between the Israeli and Lithuanian societies. In this context the Ministries will encourage and support the holding of regular events alternately in Lithuania and Israel, leading to the creation of a viable Lithuanian – Israeli Intellectuals' Forum in the future, under the responsibility of NGOs.

Done in Tel Aviv, 28 February 2008



Tzipi Livni
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the State of Israel



Petras Vaitiekunas
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Lithuania