

Will a possible Biden win have an influence on EU-Israel relations?

By [Yossi Lempkowicz](#) / November 3, 2020

Since the arrival of Gabi Ashkenazi as Israel's Foreign Minister there has been a change of atmosphere regarding EU-Israel relations. The tone has become more positive especially since Israel signed normalization agreements with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrein.

[...]

EU Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Oliver Varhelyi also stressed “the need to seize this positive momentum for EU-Israel bilateral relations, including organizing an Association Council soon.”

But according to **Oded Eran**, a former Israeli ambassador to the EU and NATO, who is currently senior research fellow at the prestigious **Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)** in Tel Aviv, this is not yet on the table. “Europeans, mostly France, is still insisting on some sort of a statement by Israel that the annexation is out. I don't see such a statement coming out from Jerusalem,” he told an online press briefing organized by Europe Israel Press Association (EIPA).

He added: “Jerusalem is quiet happy with the current situation. There is no discussion within the Israeli public opinion and political echelon on the annexation issue. No one is discussing it. Because the agreement with the UAE and other countries sent the file of annexation to somewhere in the archives for the time being.”

But Eran thinks that it is a very important issue for Europe to decide how they want to manager their relations with Israel in case of a second Trump administration or a possible Biden administration “which in this case will complicate the EU's position because if they want to reopen a political dialogue with Israel they will have to come with some sort of an answer on how to proceed with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.”

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