AJC Berlin Mideast Policy Center

INSS המכון למחקרי ביטחון לאומי
THE INSTITUTE FOR NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES
INCORPORATING THE JAFFEE CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES · TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY אוניברסיטת תל-אביב

50 50 GERMAN-ISRAELI RELATIONS
THE NEXT 50 YEARS
A TRANSATLANTIC DIALOGUE
PROJECT 2014–2015

PROGRAM

Thursday, October 23, 2014
Eretz Israel Museum
2 Haim Levanon St., Ramat Aviv
69975 Tel Aviv
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

DISCUSSION UNDER CHATHAM HOUSE RULES

9:00 a.m. – 9:10 a.m.

OPENING COMMENTS

Ambassador Dr. Oded Eran, INSS, Senior Researcher
Deidre Berger, AJC Berlin Ramer Institute, Director

9:10 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

THE CHANGING FACE OF THE MIDEAST

The advent of Islamic fundamentalism throughout the Arab world is threatening regional borders while destroying the hopes of many who launched revolutions in the hopes of creating more equitable and just societies. The sweep of ISIS across the region has increased growing streams of refugees within the Arab world, creating further destabilization. Europe is also affected, with thousands of Europeans flocking to fight for ISIS in Syria and Iraq. What new directions do these developments portend for Israel and other regional actors when confronting such changing security coordinates?

Maj. Gen. (ret.) Amos Yadlin, INSS, Director

PERSPECTIVES ON GERMAN-ISRAELI ENGAGEMENT IN THE MIDEAST

The turbulent developments in the Mideast are changing the security agenda, not just for Israel, but for Germany and Europe as well. Do core democratic values create commonalities in outlook? How

might these changes affect German-Israeli military and security cooperation? Will the developments shift attention away from a German and European focus on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict? What new paths might the relationship take moving forward, in light of the changing landscape of the Mideast?

Ambassador Dr. Clemens von Goetze
German Federal Foreign Office, Director General for Africa, Asia, Latin America, Near and Middle East

10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

SESSION I
REGIONAL CHALLENGES AND COMMON THREATS: WHOM TO TRUST IN THE NEW STRATEGIC LANDSCAPE?

Israel is dealing with a rapidly changing field of players, with new alliances emerging. Europe as well is faced with seismic shifts in long-cultivated relationships with partners in the Arab world. Who is working with whom and what impact does this have on the German-Israeli security partnership? Do the dramatic shifts in the Mideast political coordinates create new opportunities for German-Israeli cooperation?

Ambassador Andreas Michaelis, German Federal Foreign Office, Ambassador to the State of Israel
Dr. Eran Lerman, Israeli Prime Minister's Office, Deputy National Security Advisor

Moderator: **Deidre Berger,** AJC Berlin, Director

11:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

COFFEE BREAK

11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

SESSION II
WAR AND RECONCILIATION – THE RELEVANCE OF GERMANY'S EXPERIENCE TO ISRAEL'S BILATERAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

Despite decades of living under threat, with outbreaks of military hostilities, Israel has succeeded in creating formal or at least informal bilateral cooperation with a variety of neighboring countries. Moving forward, to deepen cooperation, it is worthwhile reflecting on the German post-WWII experience, as vastly different as it might be. Here, reconciliation and integration into Europe played a major role, contributing to the improvement of regional and bi-lateral cooperation with neighbors.

Tobias Bergner, German Federal Foreign Office, Forum on Global Issues, Head of Division
Ambassador Dr. Oded Eran, INSS, Senior Researcher

Moderator: **Allan Reich,** AJC International Relations Commission, Chair

12:45 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

LUNCH

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

SESSION III (PARLIAMENTARY FORUM)
CLOSING THE GAP BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC OPINION ON ISRAEL

Discussion with Israeli and German members of parliament.

There is a striking disparity between government actions and public opinion on German-Israeli relations, a gap that can prove to be a growing hindrance to the further development of the relationship. Creating a broader base of information and greater awareness of Israel's unique political, strategic and historical situation can contribute to a strengthening of the relationship.

Dr. Fritz Felgentreu MdB, German Bundestag, Representative for SPD
MK Dov Lipman, Israeli Knesset, Representative for Yesh Atid
Martin Patzelt MdB, German Bundestag, Representative for CDU
MK Dr. Nachman Shai, Israeli Knesset, Deputy Speaker of the Knesset, Labor Party

Moderator: **David Witzthum,** Israel Broadcasting Authority (IBA), Editor-in-Chief

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

COFFEE BREAK

3:15 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

FINAL SESSION
PAST AND FUTURE OF GERMAN-ISRAELI RELATIONS: AN AFFAIR OF THE HEART?

There is no country whose very name evokes greater emotions in Germany than Israel and vice-versa. The two countries are joined by history, tragedy and a growing sympathy and mutual understanding. This relationship can easily be undone, however, as decades pass and younger generations no longer understand the special character of the partnership.

Raphael Ahren, Times of Israel, Diplomatic Correspondent
Eva Keeren, IDC Herzliya, Master's Student of Counterterrorism
Maj. Arye Sharuz Shalicar, Israel Defense Forces, European Spokesperson
Lukas Welz, Young Forum, German-Israeli Society

Moderator: **Tal Heinrich**, SPORT5, Senior Sports Anchor and Broadcaster; i24 News & CNN International, Producer and Journalist

4:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

CLOSING REMARKS

Times are approximate. Open discussion to follow each session.