



**HAKHEL - IJC - הקהל**  
**הקונגרס הישראלי יהודי (הל"צ)**  
**The Israeli Jewish Congress (NPO)**

**HAKHEL - IJC - Israeli Jewish Congress (NPO)**

Activity Report: 2013 - 14

“Promoting the principle of Israel as the State of the Jewish People and strengthening ties between Israel and the Diaspora”

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### **HAKHEL - IJC - Israeli Jewish Congress (NPO)**

**The vision of the Israeli Jewish Congress (IJC - HAKHEL) is: "Promoting the principle of Israel as the State of the Jewish People and strengthening ties between Israel and the Diaspora"**

*"The Land of Israel, Palestine] was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained to statehood, created cultural values of national and universal significance and gave to the world the Eternal Book of Books."*

(Israel's Declaration of Independence - May 14th, 1948)

**Israel's 1st Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, at the Declaration of Israel's Independence (May 14th, 1948)**





1. Strengthening Israel as a Jewish State in accordance with the democratic principles of the Declaration of Independence.
2. Reinforcing and tightening mutual relations between the Jewish community in Israel and the Diaspora, especially with the Jewish communities in Europe.
3. Opposing and combatting all manifestations of anti-Semitism, racism and delegitimization of the State of Israel.
4. Promotion and support of Israel in the international community.
5. Respectful and appropriate remembrance of the Holocaust.
6. Preservation and strengthening of Jewish identity in Israel and the Diaspora.
7. Promotion of programs to strengthen Jewish solidarity in Israel and the Diaspora.



"Congratulations to the founders and members of IJC. Forging relations between Israelis and the Diaspora is critically important. Thank you all for working to secure the one and only Jewish state and thank you for working to secure our common Jewish future."

*(Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the Inaugural IJC Forum, Sept. 12th, 2012)*



"Having an organization that could represent the Israeli voice in the on-going conversation on the issues of Israel & Diaspora and anti-Semitism that we are all facing, is very important."

*(Yuli Edelstein, Speaker of Knesset & Former Minister for Public Diplomacy & Diaspora Affairs, at IJC Conference on Israeli-Diaspora Relations, Sept. 12th, 2012)*



"It is very important that Israelis remember that we are Israelis but we are also part of the Jewish people, and exactly as we have Jewish organizations elsewhere in the Diaspora, it is important to have a very strong Israel Jewish Congress."

*(Yuval Steinitz, Minister of Int'l Relations, Minister of Intelligence & Minister of Strategic Affairs, at IJC Yom Haatzmaut function, April 16th, 2013)*



"The Israeli-Jewish Congress can help guide the Jewish communities all over the world, [regarding] the opinions or the knowledge, or the information about what to do or what needs to be done."

*(Silvan Shalom, Minister of Energy and Water Resources; Minister for the Development of the Negev & Galilee; Minister for Regional Cooperation, 2nd Annual IJC International Forum, April 16th, 2013)*





1.

**Building Bridges - Reinforcing Relations: 'Trilateral Dialogue'**

In November 2013, during the JFNA General Assembly in Jerusalem, IJC partnered with JFNA to launch a permanent trilateral dialogue to strengthen relations between the Jewish communities of Europe, North America and Israel and to help combat anti-Semitism and delegitimization of Israel, while also strengthening Jewish identity.

In June 2014, we held the 2nd Trilateral Dialogue in Jerusalem, laying the groundwork for a detailed joint action plan to tackle these pressing challenges by creating 4 key working groups:

1. Combating anti-Semitism;
2. Combating BDS / Delegitimization of Israel;
3. Strengthening Jewish identity, including connection to Israel and empowering the Next Generation; &
4. Security for Jewish communities and property.

In November 2014, we will convene the 3rd Trilateral Dialogue, this time in Washington D.C. during the annual JFNA General Assembly, to discuss implementation of these important action items.



The Jewish Federations  
OF NORTH AMERICA





## 2nd Trilateral Dialogue, June 2014 (Jerusalem)





Vladimir Sloutsker, IJC President & Co-Founder



*"Wherever we live, we are one people and one nation. Whether we are Jews from Israel, Europe or America, we are ultimately all united by our shared faith, history and connection to the State of Israel, as part of one united family.*

*As both European and American Jewry continue to face increasing challenges, especially in Europe, with rising anti-Semitism and attacks on the very essence of Jewish life and Israel's legitimacy, it makes it all the more important for the Jewish people to consolidate and maintain a permanent dialogue to help overcome these challenges and ensure our communities continue to thrive and connection to Israel is strengthened."*

Dede Feinberg, Chair of the Executive Committee of JFNA



*"We believe it is most important for Jewish leaders from North America, Europe and Israel to share with each other the most pressing concerns, issues, challenges and opportunities facing our respective communities, and the Jewish people worldwide.*

*Although each community has its own unique concerns, we also have many shared challenges in common, such as strengthening Jewish life and our connection with the State of Israel. As such, it is imperative that we maintain a constant dialogue between North American and European Jewish leaders, and with the State of Israel."*



## Jerry Silverman, CEO & President of JFNA



*"We are truly at an inflation point, where we as Jews are facing some of the most challenging times, in a very long time. We have to be one people now. We have to work together, and we as Jewish Federations of North-America, look forward to locking arms in seeing what we can do, together with you, European Jewry, to enable a great Jewish future."*

## 2.

### Reinforcing the special bond between Israel and Jewish communities of Europe

- Led delegations of Jewish leaders from Europe to Israel to meet with Members of Knesset, Government officials and other Jewish leaders, and to represent the voice of their community;
- Held special gathering in the Knesset with the Speaker of the Knesset Yuli Edelstein and European Jewish leaders, laying the groundwork for creating a Joint Road Map to strengthen the special bond between Israel & the Jewish communities of Europe;
- Held major conferences in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv on reinforcing Israel-Diaspora ties, with keynote speeches by Senior Ministers from the Israeli Government, professional experts and attended by many Jewish leaders from Europe.
- Held four international gatherings and solidarity missions of senior European Jewish leaders to Israel, to create solidarity and reinforce relations between Israel as the State of the Jewish People and the Diaspora, especially with the Jewish communities of Europe.





### 3.

#### In June 2014, held the 4th IJC Solidarity Mission in Israel of Senior European Jewish Leaders. Events included:

- Private briefings by senior Cabinet Ministers Naftali Bennett and Yuval Steinitz.
- 2nd Trilateral Dialogue between Israel, North American and European Jewry.
- A special gathering in the Knesset with Members of the Knesset Diaspora Affairs Committee, the European Forum of the Knesset and the Knesset Caucus for Struggle Against Anti-Semitism.
- Met with the families of kidnapped Israeli teenagers Eyal Yifrach, Gilad Shaar & Naftali Frankel (z'l) and also joined in prayer led by Rabbi Meir Lau, Chairman of Yad Vashem Council and former Chief Rabbi of Israel and Noam Shalit (father of former kidnapped Israel soldier Gilad Shalit).
- Received briefings by senior officials from the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) about the Government's World Jewry Joint Initiative.
- Held Special Reception with H.E. Pietro Grasso, President of the Italian Senate, on the occasion of his official State Visit to Israel and in celebration of the incoming Italian Presidency of the EU.
- Toured IDF Paratrooper base in the south of Israel to show solidarity with the Israel Defense Forces.
- Presented a letter of support & solidarity to the Prime Minister of Israel signed by each of the European Jewish leaders in the IJC Delegation.













# 4.

Strengthening relations with Jewish communities in Europe through the signing of Memorandums of Understanding with over 15 umbrella Jewish community organizations, with further MoU's to be signed in the near future.

In that framework, we have already implemented joint projects with many countries, according to the needs of each community and our mutual interests and shared goals.





5.

In November 2013, re-launched the European Forum of the Knesset (EFK) to strengthen relations between Israel and Europe. EFK is headed by Member of Knesset Hilik Bar and includes Members of Knesset from across the political spectrum, working together with European parliamentary friendship associations, leaders of Jewish communities in Europe, and in cooperation with the 'European Friends of Israel' (EFI), the largest and most influential pro-Israel parliamentary group in Europe.





# 6.

Working together with Jewish communities in Europe, the Knesset and European Parliamentarians to help combat anti-Semitism and delegitimization of Israel in Europe.

In this regard, we have also produced detailed action plans on combating anti-Semitism and delegitimization of Israel, which have been presented to leading government bodies in Israel and at international conferences, including:

- Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Global Forum on Combating Anti-Semitism (May 2013);
- At the Knesset Lobby for the Struggle Against Anti-Semitism (July 2013) and at the Knesset Committee for Diaspora Affairs (November 2013).
- Participated in Panel on Global Anti-Semitism on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Beilis Trial, held in Kiev (October 2013)
- At IJC panel of leading European Parliamentarians from Poland, Greece, Spain and Belgium, who spoke on topic: 'anti-Semitism in Europe', during the 'March of the Living' event in Budapest (April 2014).



# 7.

On 28th July 2014, IJC together with the Knesset Diaspora Affairs Committee, held an Emergency Hearing at the Knesset following the violent wave of anti-Semitic and anti-Israel protests in wake of Operation Protective Edge. IJC presented the Knesset Committee with a Special Report on the situation of anti-Semitism in Europe at the gathering, which was attended by Jewish Leaders from France, Greece, Hungary, Belgium, Britain, Netherlands, Austria, Germany and Italy. The emergency hearing was held in presence of Members of Knesset, Israel's Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Public Diplomacy & Diaspora Affairs, and European Ambassadors to Israel. The event was widely covered by Israeli and international press.





## 8.

### Promoting the respectful and appropriate remembrance of the Holocaust & supporting Holocaust survivors

- In 2013 and 2014, was a leading partner of the 'March of the Living' Organization. In January 2014, which also marked 70 years since the deportation and destruction of Hungarian Jewry during the Holocaust, IJC organized a special panel on anti-Semitism in Europe with leading European Parliamentarians and led a delegation of heads of university student unions from Europe and Israel;
- Addressed Knesset Committee for Immigration, Absorption & Diaspora Affairs on the issue of the welfare of Holocaust survivors in Israel.
- Partnered with former IDF soldiers to assist Holocaust survivors during Channukah; and
- Participated in the official Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Commemoration in Poland.







יושב-ראש הכנסת  
*Speaker of the Knesset*

בס"ד

Jerusalem, 3 February 2014  
3 Adar 5774

**Dr. Vladimir Sloutsker**  
**Chairman, EFI Management Board**  
**President & C0-Founder, The Israeli Jewish Congress**

Dear Vladimir,

I would like to express my deep appreciation for your contribution to the success of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day event held in Poland on 27 January, 2014.

Due to your efforts and those of the organization which you chair, there was an impressive representation of European parliamentarians. Words cannot describe the importance of their participation in the joint Knesset-Sejm inter-parliamentary gathering.

The memory and lessons of the Holocaust are not only those of the Jewish People and the State of Israel. The participation of so many parliamentarians from around the world strengthens us in our struggle against anti-Semitism and xenophobia and helps commemorate the victims of the Holocaust.

I look forward to cooperating with you again in the future.

Yours sincerely,

**M.K. Yuli-Yoel Edelstein**  
**Speaker of the Knesset**

9.

Together with the Knesset and the 'European Friends of Israel' (EFI) organization, led an historic delegation of leading European Parliamentarians from over 20 countries to Auschwitz-Birkenau and Krakow Poland, on the occasion of the International Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27th January, 2014.

The European Parliamentarians joined a delegation of over 60 Members of Knesset – more than half, in the largest ever delegation of Knesset members to convene overseas.

In addition to participating in official International Holocaust Day commemorations, the lawmakers exchanged in a dialogue about strengthening relations between Israel and Europe and combating anti-Semitism and assault on Israel's legitimacy.







# 10.

Helping promote and support Israel in the international community:

In October 2013, partnered with the Jerusalem Post for its 2nd Annual Diplomatic Conference by facilitating the participation of British Ambassador to Israel Matthew Gould and the head of the French Jewish Community (CRIF), Mr. Roger Cukierman, to discuss the issues, challenges and opportunities facing Israel-EU relations and the Jewish community in Europe.

In December 2014, IJC will be proud again to partner with the Jerusalem Post for its 3rd Annual Diplomatic Conference by hosting a panel on 'Israel-Europe Relations in Wake of Operation Protective Edge'. The Panel will include representatives from the Knesset, Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a senior Jewish leader from Europe and a leading European Parliamentarian.





# 11.

Empowering the next generation of Israeli Jewish leaders:

- Initiating the Young Leadership Forum of the IJC: A selective group of Young Professionals from Israel who assist in the implementation of the goals of IJC, including by helping reach out to other young professionals, conduct valuable research on the issues facing Jewish communities in Europe, help combat anti-Semitism through involvement in various projects and promote Israel in the international community and social media.
- Supporting projects like the 'Young Ambassadors' program, where we led Israeli high-school student delegations to London, Paris and Budapest in order to strengthen ties with their peers, teach skills in leadership and perform public diplomacy for Israel.

We expect to send even more delegations in the near future.



# 12.

Published Op-Eds and quoted in leading news publications in Israel and around the world on matters relating to anti-Semitism, Israel, relations with Europe and issues affecting the Diaspora Jewish community.



JPost.com > Opinion > Op-Ed Contributors

## A blueprint to combat the assault on Israel's legitimacy in Europe

By ARSEN OSTROVSKY 04/05/2014 23:41

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Although successes of the BDS Campaign have been relatively limited in scope, the greater danger is that it keeps spinning the propellers assaulting Israel's legitimacy.

OPINIONS & BLOGS > Arsen Ostrovsky

## Reinforcing relations between Israel & European Jewry

JUNE 27, 2013, 5:18 PM |







**Vladimir Sloutsker**

President & Co-Founder of The Israeli-Jewish Congress. Previously served as Chairman of the Russian Jewish Congress and from 2002-10, was a senator in the Russian Federation Senate. In 2014 was recognized by the Jerusalem Post as one of the Top 50 Most Influential Jews in the World for his contribution to the State of Israel and the Jewish community, especially in Europe.



**Danny Yatom**

Former Head of the Mossad (1996-98) and a Major General in the Israel-Defense Forces, an advisor to Prime Ministers Yitzhak Rabin, Shimon Peres and Ehud Barak and from 2003-08 served as a Member of Knesset (Labor).



**Yaakov Borovsky**

Currently a City Councilor in Haifa and a former Major General in the Israel Police, including as Commander of Haifa Police and a senior official in the State Comptroller's Office.



**Lipa Meir**

Partner in the law firm Lipa Meir & Co. Has previously served as Chairman of the National Disciplinary Court of the Israel Bar Association and on the Board of Trustees and Executive Council of Bar-Ilan University and Netanya Academic College. Currently also lectures across a number of different legal fields at universities in Israel.



**Ambassador Avi Pazner**

Amb. Pazner is a former Israeli Ambassador to Italy, Malta and France. He has also acted as a Senior Adviser to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, helped prepared the Madrid Peace Conference and establish formal diplomatic relations with the Holy See and has served as the World Chairman of Keren Hayesod – United Israel Appeal.



**Tal Brody**

Tal Brody is an Israeli basketball legend, national sports hero and inductee into the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame. In 2008, he was appointed by Prime Minister Netanyahu as a Goodwill Ambassador for the State of Israel.

In this capacity he has travelled the world assisting with Israel's public diplomacy and strengthening connections between Israel and the Diaspora. In 1979, Mr. Brody was awarded the country's highest civilian honor, the Israel Prize, in recognition of his services to sport and youth.



**Shlomo Grofman**

Shlomo Grofman is a central figure in many sectors of the Israeli business community and is widely acknowledged as one of the most prominent and innovative real estate entrepreneurs.

Mr. Grofman is also actively involved in a number of not-for-profit organizations, including as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors of the March of the Living International.





**Michel Gourary**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Aaron Abramovich**  
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Yitzhak Eldan**  
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**Ran Bar-Yoshafat**  
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