

Brussels, 17 March 2004

## **EU and Israel reach agreement on GALILEO. Under EU auspices, cooperation between Israel and the Palestinian Authority is also taking off**

***An agreement has been reached between the European Union and the State of Israel on its participation in the GALILEO programme. This agreement was initialled in Jerusalem on 17 March 2004 by François Lamoureux, Director-General for Energy and Transport at the European Commission, and Ra'anan Dinur, Director-General of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labour of Israel. During Mr Lamoureux's visit, thanks to the support of the EU, cooperation between Israel and the Palestinian Authority produced concrete results with the creation of a joint Israeli-Palestinian office on energy.***

Since the Council invited the Commission to start formal negotiations with Israel on 16 January 2004, intensive exchanges have been held between the parties. These culminated in an agreed text in record time at the round of talks held in Tel Aviv on 17 March 2004.

Ra'anan Dinur, Director General of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labour of Israel and François Lamoureux, Director General for Transport and Energy at the European Commission, initialled the agreement on that occasion. This lays the basis for Israel's active participation in the programme. The agreement will be submitted to the next EU Transport Council meeting on June 2004 for formal approval by the EU Member States.

This agreement provides for co-operative activities on satellite navigation and timing in a wide range of sectors, notably science and technology, industrial manufacturing, service and market development, as well as standardisation, frequencies and certification. It also paves the way for Israel to take part financially in the programme through a stake holding in the GALILEO Joint Undertaking, the body managing the programme.

With regard to energy cooperation between the European Union and the Palestinian Authority, the Director-General for Energy and Transport, François Lamoureux, represented the Commission at the 4th ministerial meeting held in Jerusalem on 17 March, which was also attended by the Israeli Minister for Infrastructure, Joseph Paritzky, the Palestinian Minister for Energy, Azzam Shawwa, the Irish Presidency and the French Minister for Industry, Nicole Fontaine, who was on a bilateral visit to Israel and Palestine.

This meeting enabled concrete progress to be made. An agreement on the setting up of a joint Israeli-Palestinian Energy Office was signed on this occasion. This Office, which will bring together experts from the two parties and the European Union, will, among other things, carry out feasibility studies for the construction of a joint power station by the private sector, the principle of which has been adopted.

In addition, plans for the rehabilitation and development of Israeli-Palestinian energy infrastructures of common interest will be developed which will improve the two parties' energy supply.

## **Background**

GALILEO is Europe's satellite radio navigation programme. It was launched at the initiative of the European Commission and developed jointly with the European Space Agency (ESA). It heralds the advent of a technological revolution similar to the one sparked off by mobile phones. It will also make for the development of a new generation of universal services in areas such as transport, telecommunication, agriculture and fisheries. To date, this technology, which promises to be highly profitable, is mastered only by the United States' GPS system and Russia's GLONASS system, both of which are financed and controlled by the military authorities. The GALILEO programme will be administered and controlled by civilians and offers a guarantee of quality and continuity which is essential for many sensitive applications. Its complementarity with current systems will increase the reliability and availability of navigation and positioning services worldwide.

Israel is one of the eight countries within the world space community demonstrating significant technological background on space programmes and achievements on GNSS applications, equipment, user segment and regional technology. The State of Israel expressed its interest in participating in the GALILEO programme in June 2003 and therefore its willingness to support the European position on standardization and frequency allocation to promote the market for GALILEO services.

***For more information about GALILEO, please visit:***

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/energy\\_transport/galileo](http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/energy_transport/galileo)

<http://www.esa.int/export/esaSA/navigation.html>

<http://www.galileoju.com>