



*Delegation of the European Union to the State of Israel*

משלחת האיחוד האירופי למדינת ישראל

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## Press Release

### Launch of Second EU "Twinning" project with the Ministry of Environmental Protection

**A second EU-funded "twinning" project supporting Israel's Ministry of Environmental Protection will be launched on Wednesday, September 9 at the ministry's offices in Tel Aviv. The goal of the two year project is to improve and modernize environmental regulatory and management tools for Israeli industry.**

The twinning project will be carried out by experts from ministries and agencies from three EU Member States – Germany, Austria and the United Kingdom - working in close collaboration with a team from the Ministry of Environmental Protection. The body with overall responsibility from the EU side is Germany's Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety.

Among the expected outcomes of the project is the development of environmental requirements with special attention to the needs of small and medium enterprises in priority fields such as waste management, and water, soil and air pollution control. This will also lay the groundwork for the participation of Israeli companies in the EU's [Eco-Management and Audit Scheme](#) (EMAS) which could improve their access to EU markets.

The project, based on EU legislation and experience, will also offer ideas on how to consolidate Israel's overall sustainable environmental policy in areas such as energy efficiency, use of raw materials, water resources and waste management.

During the course of the project, a Resident Twinning Advisor will work at the ministry's premises alongside her Israeli counterpart. Their work will be complemented by other experts as well as by study visits to the European Union. The project's budget is 2,080,000 euros.

Speakers at the September 9 launch will include EU Ambassador to the State of Israel Lars Faaborg-Andersen and the ministry's Director General ...

EU funded "Twinning" projects are a part of the EU's European Neighbourhood Policy.

They allow the public administrations in neighbouring countries like Israel to draft laws and regulations or to reorganize institutional structures along European models by benefitting from expertise coming from the EU's Member states. In Israel, eight "twinning" projects have already been completed in fields ranging from equal employment opportunities to statistics and from telecommunications to transport.

The European bodies involved in the project are: The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety; Effizienz-Agentur NRW; Hessen Trade and Invest GmbH; The Environment Agency of Austria; The Northern Ireland Co-operation Overseas; The Northern Ireland Environment Agency and The British Standards Institution.

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