

Commissioner Moedas to President Rivlin : “I love this country. I hope the cooperation between Israel and Europe will increase.”

At his meeting with President Reuven Rivlin (11.1.16) Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation talked about cooperation between the European Union and Israel in the fields of science and innovation.

"I love this country," he said. "It is really for me a very special occasion to be here, especially because it has been 20 years since the beginning of the collaboration between Israel and the EU. Over the last year, I have been around Europe, talking to researchers and scientists, and everybody greatly appreciates the work of your scientists and innovators. You are an example. I want to be a little bit of your voice in terms of the great people I have met here, and the many innovators and entrepreneurs. The drive and energy that you have in this country to create businesses is unique and is an example to Europe. I am here to tell you that I hope this cooperation between Israel and Europe will increase. For us, and for our scientists, it is extremely important."

"I hope that during my tenure I will be able to be here for you, because you have been here for us in terms of everything in science and innovation," he added.

He noted as an example of Israel's achievements that 338 Israeli researchers were recipients of prestigious European Research Council grants. "These are awarded to the best of the best in the world," he said.

In the course of his official visit to Israel (10-12 January) Commissioner Moedas also met with: Minister of Science, Technology and Space, Ofir Akunis; Chief Scientist, Ministry of Economy, Avi Hasson and Head of the Planning and Budget Committee of the Council of Higher Education, Prof Yaffa Zilbershats. He also visited Mobileye Vision Technologies and Jerusalem Venture Partners. At his meetings at the Weizmann Institute of Science and the Hebrew University he listened intently to presentations by European Research Council grant recipients.

Commissioner Moedas is responsible for the EU's Horizon 2020, the world's largest public research programme with a budget of 77 billion euros over seven years. Israel is fully associated to Horizon 2020.