



Delegation of the European Union to the State of Israel

משלחת האיחוד האירופי למדינת ישראל

وفد الاتحاد الأوروبي إلى دولة إسرائيل

23.2.15

PR1/15

Press release

Final event of EU-Israel Twinning project for 'Green Licensing' in Israel to celebrate achievements

Follow up Twinning project with the Ministry of Environmental Protection will be the biggest ever

On Tuesday, 24 February, representatives of the Ministry of Environmental Protection, the European Union, the German embassy, the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, the Manufacturers Association, civil society organizations and some of Israel's leading manufacturing industries will meet at the Peres Center for Peace to celebrate the achievements of a "Twinning" project to establish a system of "green licensing" in Israel.

The 18 month project, supported by the European Union with a budget of 900,000 euros, was carried out by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and the Ministry of Environmental Protection.

One of the main achievements of the Twinning project was the publication in December 2014 of a draft Integrated Environmental Licensing Law which has been approved by the government and which streamlines existing permits into one integrated permit, thus creating a simplified approval procedure. A condition for receiving the integrated permit is proof of use of the best existing technologies to prevent or reduce environmental damage.

In the framework of the project, industrial plants were invited to take part in an "Industry and Environment" competition. The factories participating in the competition succeeded in saving hundreds of thousands of shekels each with an overall saving to industry of 8 million shekels. Films showing their projects in action will be screened at the event.

The new Israeli law formulated in the course of the project is based on the European Union directive on integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC). Twinning projects are a European Union initiative to help countries acquire the necessary skills and experience to adopt, implement and enforce EU legislation. The projects bring together public sector expertise from EU Member States and partner countries, with the aim of enhancing co-operation activities.

This successful project will soon be followed up with another Twinning project, the biggest ever to be held in Israel. To be implemented by the Ministry of Environmental Protection with the participation of experts from Germany, Austria and the UK, it will benefit from an EU contribution of 2 million euros.

For further information: David Kriss 054-2240772

Journalists wishing to cover the event should call the Environment Ministry at 02-6553715