



Delegation of the European Union to the State of Israel

משלחת האיחוד האירופי למדינת ישראל

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Press release

EU continues cooperation with Israel's Communications Ministry

The European Union continued its cooperation with Israel's Ministry of Communications by supporting a workshop held on 29-30 June in Tel Aviv on "Dispute resolution for wholesale telecommunication markets".

The workshop brought together the ministry's representatives with those of the regulatory authorities of three EU member states: the Republic of Lithuania, Italy and Spain. The participants outlined the situation in their countries, presented case studies and discussed the applicability to Israel of dispute resolution practice and procedures in EU Member States.

Addressing the seminar, EU ambassador to Israel Lars Faaborg-Andersen noted that this seminar was the latest example of cooperation between the EU and the ministry. This had begun with a two-year "Twinning" project, with the participation of experts from the German, Italian and Spanish regulatory authorities that ended in 2012 and was designed to help the Israeli regulator to establish greater approximation to the EU regulatory approach to wholesale markets. The proposals that emerged from this project had been used in the Israeli reforms of the Telecommunications sector. This was followed by a TAIEX workshop on supervision of wholesale telecom network operators. The ambassador said that he believed that this third event which was taking place after Israeli Telecom market had undergone major reforms, would assist the Ministry of Communications to assess the current situation in the market, and identify what works well and where there was room for further improvement.

Director General Ministry of Communications, Shlomo Filber, noted that the ministry was especially happy to learn from the experience of regulators from the European Union member states which had efficient, active and competitive wholesale markets. The workshop, he said, was important because the success in the move to a wholesale market in the fixed network sector depended on the ability to develop effective monitoring and enforcement as well as appropriate systems for dispute resolution. Mr. Filber said that he was confident that the long term cooperation between the ministry and the European Union would continue.

The seminar was held in the framework of TAIEX (Technical Assistance Information Exchange Instrument of the European Commission).

For more information on TAIEX see:

http://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/tenders/taieux/index_en.htm

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