

# Political Affairs Digest

*A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community*  
**Scottish Council of Jewish Communities**  
**SCoJeC**

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### House of Commons Written Answers

#### **Agriculture and Water: Israel**

**Rebecca Pow** [68364] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent cooperation his Department has had with Israel on agriscience and water science; and how the UK has benefited from Israeli innovation in that area.

**Tobias Ellwood:** The UK has a strong relationship with Israel with regards to science and innovation. Our Science and Innovation Team in our Embassy in Tel Aviv are aiming to hold two symposia on water and agri-sciences in the coming year, and are exploring fellowships and lectureships in these fields.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-17/68364/>

#### **Israel: Deportation**

**Roger Godsiff** [68766] To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether the Government (a) has raised or (b) plans to raise with the Government of Israel the issue of deportations from Israel of activists who support a boycott of illegally occupied Palestinian territories.

**Tobias Ellwood:** We are seeking clarification from the Israeli government on the potential impact on British nationals. We have updated our travel advice to highlight this issue.

However, ultimately, Israel's immigration policy is a matter for the Israeli government. Israeli immigration officials, as mentioned in our travel advice, have the right to deport or refuse entry to anyone they wish. The UK's immigration policies and controls are similarly protected.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2017-03-21/68766/>

### Department for International Trade

#### **UK and Israel set to hold first trade policy working group**

Tomorrow (29 March), government ministers from the UK and Israel will chair the inaugural meeting of the new UK-Israel Trade Working Group.

Announced in February by UK Prime Minister Theresa May and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the group will strengthen the trade and investment relationship

between the UK and Israel. ...

Bilateral trade between the UK and Israel reached \$7.5 billion in 2015 and the UK is Israel's second largest trading partner. It is also Israel's number 1 destination for investment in Europe, with more than 300 Israeli companies operating in the UK. Since April 2016, 28 Israeli companies have set up shop or expanded their presence, creating over 700 new jobs in the UK.

Over 30 British companies operate in Israel, in addition to hundreds more that are represented.

International Trade Minister Lord Price said: ... My visit to Israel has reinforced the strong ties that already exist between our 2 nations and our new working group will look to continue the progress we have seen in our burgeoning trade and investment relationship. We will work together to maximise future trade opportunities and ensure a smooth transition as we leave the EU, to keep the UK-Israel trading relationship thriving.

Minister of Economy and Industry Eli Cohen said: As the UK is Israel's first export destination in Europe, we see high importance in keeping and enhancing our trade relations when the UK ceases to be a member of the European Union. We should make sure that the business communities in both countries will be able to continue trading with each other by providing them the necessary trade platforms. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-israel-set-to-hold-first-trade-policy-working-group>

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## Other Relevant Information

### Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

#### **Developing teaching resources to counter intolerance against Muslims focus of Dublin meeting co-hosted by ODIHR**

... "We are committed to drafting hands-on resource materials that will assist teachers in exposing the devastating effects of prejudice, hatred and discrimination," said Dermana Seta, ODIHR Adviser on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims. "Through different teaching units that address sensitive topics, these materials should serve as tools for teachers to promote tolerance, and an understanding of and respect for diversity in their students, in an easy, interesting and appealing manner."

"These materials will give teachers and schools the means to practically tackle intolerance against Muslims," added Brian Killoran, CEO of the Immigrant Council of Ireland. "Dealing with controversial issues in the classroom is delicate work and better equipping teachers by removing some of the hesitation and uncertainty about addressing the issue is an important first step towards eradicating this intolerance."

The meeting builds on ODIHR's [Guidelines for Educators on Countering Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims](#), developed in partnership with the Council of Europe and UNESCO, and on the commitments made by OSCE participating States to encourage public and private educational programmes that promote tolerance and non-discrimination.

**To read the full press release see**

<http://www.osce.org/office-for-democratic-institutions-and-human-rights/308106>

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## Relevant Legislation \*\* new or updated today

### UK Parliament

#### **Arbitration and Mediation Services (Equality) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/arbitrationandmediationservicesequality.html>

#### **Assisted Dying Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/assisteddying.html>

#### **Lobbying (Transparency) Bill**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/lobbyingtransparency.html>

#### **Promotion of Israeli-Palestinian Peace (United Kingdom Participation)**

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/promotionofisraelipalestinianpeaceunitedkingdomparticipation.html>

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## Consultations \*\* new or updated today

#### **\*\* closes in two days**

**The UK's policy towards the Middle East Peace Process** (closing date 30 March 2017)

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/foreign-affairs-committee/news-parliament-2015/middle-east-peace-process-inquiry-16-17/>

**Adoption and Children (Northern Ireland) Bill** (closing date 10 April 2017)

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/consultations/adoption-and-children-northern-ireland-bill>

**\*\* Caste in Great Britain and Equality Law** (closing date 18 July 2017)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/caste-in-great-britain-and-equality-law-a-public-consultation>

**Workplace Diversity (Wales)** (closing date not stated)

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/wtucdiversity>

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