

LETTER OF INTENT
between the
ITALIAN MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT LAND AND SEA
AND THE ISRAELI MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

RECALLING the Joint declaration on environmental cooperation signed in Jerusalem on June 30, 2004 by the Italian Minister for the Environment and the Israeli Minister for the Environmental Protection,

RECALLING the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change of 1997, which Israel and Italy are Parties to,

RECALLING the Memorandum of Understanding for the joint cooperation in the framework of the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol, signed on February 2, 2005;

RECALLING the Memorandum of Understanding signed on April 14, 2003 between the Italian Ministry for the Environment and the Tel Aviv University (Porter School for Environmental Studies), aimed at the designing and the implementation of joint pilot projects for sustainable development;

RECOGNISING the positive outcomes of the joint pilot projects for the protection of the environment and the sustainable development, implemented since 2004;

ACKNOWLEDGING the ongoing strategic joint programs, in the framework of the environmental bilateral cooperation, between the Euro Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change and Israeli Scientific Institutions on the adaptation to climate change and its adverse effects in the Mediterranean Region;

IN ORDER to further promote the cooperation between Israel and Italy on the protection of the environment and sustainable development;

The Italian Ministry for the Environment Land and Sea and the Israeli Ministry of Environmental Protection, hereinafter referred to as the Parties, declare their intention:

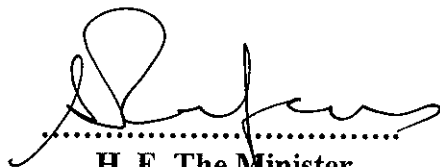
1. To strengthen the existing bilateral cooperation in the following areas:
 - Research and Development in environmental technologies, including renewable energies, water desalination, sustainable transportation, water resources management;
 - Mitigation and adaptation to climate change;
 - Combating desertification;
 - Monitoring the Mediterranean coast erosion.

2. To establish a "Joint Israeli – Italian Environmental Standing Committee" with the aim of :
 - identifying projects and programmes to be jointly implemented through the employment of common financial resources in the above mentioned areas;
 - identifying sources of European and international projects funding and opportunities of private investments;

- promoting links and synergies of project activities with other programmes, projects and initiatives in the framework of Multilateral Environmental Agreements.
- 3. The Environmental Standing Committee, which will be also act as Executive Body, will be co - chaired by the Director General of the *Direzione Generale per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile, l'Energia e il Clima* of the Italian Ministry for the Environment Land and Sea, and the Director General of the Israeli Ministry for Environmental Protection.
- 4. The Parties declare their intention that the financial provision for the implementation of the programme, the projects and all relevant activities will be financed in equal part by the Italian Ministry for the Environment Land and Sea and the Israeli Ministry of Environmental Protection and other relevant Israeli partners.
Each of the Parties declares its respective intention to arrange for the provision of 2 million Euro over the years 2010 and 2011.
- 5. The existing bilateral cooperation agreements and activities on environmental protection will be subject to the provisions of the present letter of intent.

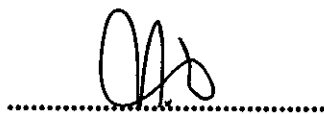
Done in Jerusalem on in two originals in English.

FOR THE ITALIAN MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, LAND AND SEA



H. E. The Minister
Stefania Prestigiacomo

FOR THE ISRAELI MINISTRY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



H. E. The Minister
Gilad Erdan