

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON CONDUCTING BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MALTA AND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF

THE STATE OF ISRAEL

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malta and The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Israel (hereinafter referred to as "the Parties"),

Desirous to strengthen the historical ties of friendship and co-operation between them for the benefit of their peoples and countries and for the realization of common objectives based on the principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Realizing that the strengthening of co-operation and understanding between them will contribute to enhance peace, security and stability in the Mediterranean basin in particular and international peace and security in general,

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Convinced that conducting regular consultations and exchanges of views on bilateral, regional and international issues of common interest to the Parties will contribute to the deepening of mutual understanding,

Guided by the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

- 1. The Parties shall conduct consultative meetings on an annual basis and in rotation in both countries to discuss modalities of expanding and deepening co-operation for the development of bilateral relations as well as international issues of common interest.
- 2. The Parties shall agree on the delegations, their ranks, specific dates, venues and agendas of the consultative meetings, by mutual consent and through diplomatic channels.
- 3. Each Party may, when required, call for an extraordinary meeting.
- 4. The Parties may set up working groups or expert meetings on various issues in order to discuss specific areas of common interest.

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Article 2

Consultations shall in particular include the following:

- a. Issues concerning the organization of co-operation in the political sphere;
- b. Issues on regional, inter-regional and international cooperation of common interest;
- c. Issues of common interest that are dealt with by international organizations of which both Parties are members.

In particular, consultations will focus on the situation in the Middle East region, the Union for the Mediterranean and the dialogue between Europe and the State of Israel.

Article 3

The outcome of the consultative meetings shall not be made public unless otherwise agreed upon by the Parties.

Article 4

The Parties shall, within their competence, look for ways and means to further develop their relations in every field and on different levels.

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Article 5

The Representatives of the Parties, to the United Nations and other international organizations, shall endeavour to conduct consultations on various issues of common interest with the aim of co-ordinating their viewpoints.

Article 6

This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended upon mutual consent of the Parties in writing.

Article 7

Any dispute about the interpretation or application of this Memorandum of Understanding will be resolved by consultations between the parties.

Article 8

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the date of its signature and shall be valid for two years, and automatically renewed for similar periods, unless one of the Parties notifies the other Party, in writing, of its desire to modify or terminate this Memorandum of Understanding. Such termination or modification will take place three months prior to its expiry.

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Done at <u>Jeansalum</u>, this <u>16</u> day of <u>lecember</u>, of the year <u>2010</u>, in two original copies, in the English and Hebrew languages, both texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

FOR
THE MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
MALTA

FOR
THE MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
THE STATE OF
ISRAEL

Dr Tonio Borg Deputy Prime Minister and

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Mr Daniel Ayalon Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs