



## **Media release**

### **Associations for friendship with Israel from 19 European countries have founded the “European Alliance for Israel”**

(May 11<sup>th</sup> 2015) The friendship associations with Israel from all over Europe on May 10<sup>th</sup> formally established the NGO “European Alliance for Israel” (EAI). With the founding ceremony, that took place in Berlin, an important milestone could be reached.

At a first gathering in December 2013, the friendship associations had identified an increasing need for coordinated support for Israel and the Jewish communities in Europe. They discerned the following urgent problems:

- an increasingly noticeable isolation of Israel, not only among political actors, but in wide parts of civil society in Europe;
- a worrying rise of anti-Semitism in Europe;
- an intensification of activities by BDS, which demonise Israel.

Alarmed by these developments, they took the initiative to build a network to take a stand for Israel and to work together for peace and coexistence. Throughout 2014, first joint activities were realised and the structure of the Alliance was prepared.

The EAI unites friendship associations from: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

The following personalities were elected board members:

- Corina Eichenberger-Walter (president), MP, lawyer, president Swiss-Israel Association
- Charles Meyer, lawyer, vice president France-Israel Alliance Général Koenig
- Claudia Korenke, vice president Deutsch-Israelische Gesellschaft
- Conrad Myrland, secretary general Med Israel for Fred (Norway)
- Giovanni Matteo Quer, Federazione delle Associazioni Italia-Israele
- Mihail Ionescu, Mayor General (ret), president Cultural Friendship Association Romania-Israel
- Wolfgang Paul, Ambassador (ret), Österreichisch-Israelische Gesellschaft
- Lukas Blum (secretary general), Swiss-Israel Association

By a common effort of all members, the EAI will work according to its mission statement (comp. attachment). As a next activity we can announce already now that the EAI will intervene against the attempt to suspend the Israel Football Association from the FIFA.