



Annual Report 2023

ELNET

EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP NETWORK



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Looking Forward

The road ahead for Israel and Jews worldwide in 2024 appears no less difficult than the previous year. ELNET is well-positioned to accomplish much more in the coming years as we continue the mission of strengthening Europe-Israel relations. In light of the seven-front war confronting Israel, there is immediate urgency to continue bringing European leaders to Israel for briefings on the situation and to see the realities on the ground. We will keep organizing solidarity and educational missions for European leaders and policymakers for this purpose.

We plan to ramp up our educational activities on key issues such as the threats posed by Iran and its proxies to Israel and Europe, the surging antisemitism and Israel delegitimization taking place across Europe, and expanding defense and energy cooperation between Europe and Israel. Moreover, with a look to the day after these wars, ELNET will continue to pursue Israeli-Arab normalization, Europe-Israel ties, and transatlantic dialogue ahead of the next US presidential election.

To commemorate one year since the October 7 attack on Israel, ELNET is organizing a series of events in Europe and a special solidarity delegation to Israel for members of parliament and other political leaders to stand with Israelis at this difficult time.

On a more positive note, ELNET is especially looking forward to holding its fourth ELNET International Policy Conference (EIPC) in Paris on May 18-20, 2025, entitled “Stronger Together. Europe, Israel, and the Middle East in a Tumultuous World.” EIPC is the singular conference where top-level policymakers and experts from Europe, Israel, the Middle East, and the US come together to tackle the most pressing geopolitical issues. With hopes of expanding the Abraham Accords with European involvement, ELNET will continue our work with Morocco, the UAE, and other regional actors to facilitate constructive dialogue. We also have plans to increase activities in Spain, Italy, Austria, Greece, the Netherlands, Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), and other priority countries. Last but not least, we plan to boost both donor support and media engagement, while also creating new and thrilling partnerships.

649

decision-makers engaged

2,552

participants from the policy community

57

policy activities, including delegations, strategic dialogues, conferences, and briefings

38

other activities, including GIHF-AI, GINSUM, workshops, and networking events

Executive Summary

On October 7, 2023, Hamas declared war on Israel by perpetrating the most devastating and bloody attacks on Israeli soil in Israel's history and second only to the Holocaust in terms of the number of Jews killed in a single day. Currently, 101 hostages are still being held in Gaza.

Following October 7, Europe has shown unprecedented support for Israel. All major European leaders visited Israel in solidarity. Germany decided to temporarily cut off all funding to UNWRA, transferred two Heron-TP drones to the IDF, and called on the EU to impose sanctions against Hamas. The UK sent two Royal Navy ships and surveillance aircraft to the eastern Mediterranean to support Israel.

ELNET worked to advance Europe's critical support for Israel. Since October 7, ELNET has taken close to 300 European policymakers and opinion leaders to Israel on solidarity delegations. These leaders returned home to share what they witnessed.

Each ELNET office served as a conduit of factual and credible information to parliamentarians and policymakers across Europe by providing firsthand information about what happened on October 7. ELNET arranged meetings with MPs and MEPs to meet with families of Israeli hostages, hear first-person accounts from survivors, and arranged for screenings of the attacks' horror videos in the various parliaments. The day after ELNET brought Israeli survivors to speak at the European Parliament, an unprecedented resolution was passed backing Israel's right to self-defense and calling for the elimination of Hamas.

For the past year, Iran and its proxies have attacked Israel from seven fronts: Gaza, Lebanon, the West Bank, Yemen, Syria, Iraq and Iran itself. Iran's proxy, Hezbollah, has been attacking Israel daily on Israel's northern border since October 8.

Though France and the US have been active trying to prevent further escalation between Hezbollah and Israel, Israel ultimately took its security fully into its own hands when it decimated the entire Hezbollah command structure through a remarkable series of unprecedented military actions.

Though we cannot know what the future holds, we do know that ELNET's work to maintain European support for Israel has never been more important.

Meanwhile, the Ukraine war has catalyzed Russian and Iranian strategic cooperation, thus facilitating the transfer of Iranian drones and missiles to Russia to be deployed in the heart of Europe. This, in conjunction with Hamas's attack on October 7, has forced European policymakers to reevaluate their diplomacy with Iran. The European Parliament and EU member states pushed to designate Iran's IRGC as a terrorist organization. The three major European powers – UK, France, and Germany – have been taking a more resolute stance against Iran's nuclear program.

ELNET was able to advance European and NATO support for the Abraham Accords – one of the rare positive developments in the Middle East – which has unfortunately been put on hold since the Israel-Hamas war. Notwithstanding this pause, ELNET continues to work on maintaining dialogue between Europe and Abraham Accords countries in anticipation of the day after the wars end. The war in Gaza unleashed a disturbing wave of antisemitism in Europe, and thankfully, many

European countries took strong measures to suppress the anti-Israel demonstrations. ELNET continued its fight against growing antisemitism, by hosting the first Actions Matter Summit in Berlin. The Summit resulted in a 10-point action plan, including a strong recommendation to implement the IHRA definition of antisemitism, which has already been adopted by 33 European countries.

Positive developments on Europe-Israel relations included Israel and Germany signing the nearly €4 billion deal for Israel's Arrow 3 missile defense system, as well as Israel restoring ties with Poland. "A New Era in Europe-Israel Relations" was the overarching theme of ELNET's 3rd ELNET International Policy Conference (EIPC) in Paris, gathering 450 participants and 80 speakers from across the globe.

In 2023, ELNET engaged close to 650 top decision-makers in its policy programs and reached an audience of over 2,500 participants from the broader policy community. We led and took part in 17 delegations to Israel, nine visits to Europe, 12 conferences, four briefings, five Strategic Dialogues, and ten roundtables and seminars. We had an additional 17,200+ participants in GIHF-AI, GINSUM, workshops, and networking events.

ELNET launched a new regional office for Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and a new office in Italy. ELNET expanded its policy outreach in Europe with its first delegations from CEE, Czech Republic and Kosovo, as well as a first-ever CEE-Israel Strategic Dialogue and a first-ever Israel-Romania Expert Dialogue.

Europe shows unprecedented support for Israel following October 7

Europe demonstrated strong support for Israel following the brutal massacre. All major European leaders visited Israel in solidarity. Germany transferred two Heron-TP drones to the IDF and called on the EU to impose sanctions against Hamas. The UK sent two Royal Navy ships and surveillance aircraft to the eastern Mediterranean to support Israel.



Germany buys Arrow 3 missile defense, Israel's largest-ever defense contract

Israel and Germany signed a deal to move forward with the nearly €4 billion purchase of the Israeli- and American-developed Arrow 3 missile defense system. ELNET arranged for German political leaders and officials to meet with Israeli officials and thus advance the requisite research and dialogue to consummate this historic deal.



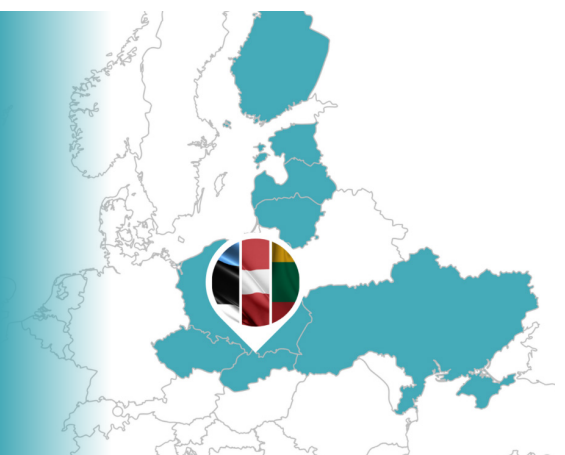
European solidarity missions to Israel

Just since October 7, ELNET has taken close to 300 European policymakers, opinion leaders, and military and intelligence veterans to Israel on solidarity delegations to hear first-hand testimonies and see the atrocities for themselves. These leaders returned to their native countries to share what they witnessed.



ELNET launches a new regional office for Central and Eastern Europe (CEE)

The launching of ELNET CEE was a pivotal milestone in our mission to strengthen the bonds between Central and Eastern Europe and Israel. This highlights the growing importance of the developing alliance between CEE countries and Israel, spurred by Russia's war in Ukraine.



Europe takes strong measures against anti-Israel demonstrations

At least 12 EU member states – France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Poland, Czech Republic, Latvia, Estonia, Hungary, Finland, Sweden and Bulgaria - have taken strong measures against pro-Hamas demonstrations since October 7, including the banning of protests amid a dramatic rise in antisemitism.



Israeli survivors of October 7 speak at the European Parliament

The European Parliament heard the harrowing testimonies of Israeli survivors and victims of Hamas's attack. Organized by ELNET, the victims shared their stories at a meeting of the European Parliament official delegation for Israel.



European Parliament and EU member states push to designate IRGC as a terrorist organization

The European Parliament called for more sanctions against the Iranian regime and recommended that Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) should be added to the EU's list of terror groups. This marks a major shift in the European position. Several EU member states have been pushing for this as well.



ELNET opens a new office in Italy

ELNET Italy celebrated its official launch event in Rome in the Chamber of Deputies with a welcome speech from Hon. Antonio Tajani, Deputy Prime Minister of Italy, thus marking the beginning of a promising chapter in the ties between Italy and Israel.



ELNET advances European and NATO support for the Abraham Accords

ELNET works to establish support groups for the Accords in European parliaments, which was successfully done in the German Bundestag and European Parliament, following the UK Parliament. ELNET also hosted a first of a kind seminar at NATO on the strategic importance of the Abraham Accords.



ELNET pursues health diplomacy between Germany and Israel

Through its two innovation projects, GIHF-AI and GINSUM, ELNET convened several virtual roundtables, produced publications, and held the annual GIHF-AI conference to bring German and Israeli experts together to exchange knowledge and experience in digital health and AI. More than 100 participants attended the conference.



ELNET's Israel Survey increases its reach in Europe

For the second time (fifth in Germany), ELNET surveyed parliamentarians across Europe on their perspectives about Middle East policies, Jewish life in Europe, and their countries' relations with Israel. Nearly 400 European parliamentarians and MEPs from 16 countries participated. The results were presented at the German Bundestag and garnered wide media attention.



Israel exports oil for the first time to Europe

For the first time ever, Israel has begun exporting crude oil from its resources in the Mediterranean, thus marking a significant move towards energy self-sufficiency.



ELNET continues its fight against growing antisemitism

ELNET hosted the first Actions Matter Summit in Berlin, ELNET's new policy program against antisemitism and Israel-hatred. The Summit developed a 10-point action plan, including a strong recommendation to implement the IHRA definition of antisemitism, which has already been adopted by 33 European countries.



Israel restores ties with Poland

ELNET CEE facilitated the exchange of Israeli expertise on national security, civil resilience, and traumatic stress between Israel and Poland, Ukraine, and the Baltic States. These efforts contributed to reopening the long-stalled diplomatic relations between Poland and Israel.





Iran

- Prevent Iran from advancing to nuclear weapons
- Increase European understanding of Iran's destabilizing activities on multiple levels: nuclear, regional activities and missiles - special focus on European members of the P5+1 and the EU



Counter terrorism (Hamas, Hezbollah, Houthis)

- Educate on Israel-Hamas war
- Expand the European ban on the political arm of Hezbollah
- Counter radical Islam and terror financing
- Promote dialogue and cooperation on counterterrorism and cybersecurity
- Keep Hamas on the EU list of terror organizations



Great power competition

- Discuss the Ukraine war and its repercussions, and the role of Russia in the Middle East
- Educate and instill a dialogue on China-US rivalry



Defense cooperation, energy & Mediterranean Sea

- Highlight Israel's potential to help Europe meet its growing defense needs
- Encourage Europe and Israel to increase their cooperation on energy in the Eastern Mediterranean
- Educate on Turkey's destabilizing activities



The Abraham Accords & Israeli-Arab normalization

- Strengthen and expand Israeli-Arab normalization
- Support stronger cooperation among Israel, Egypt, and Jordan
- Support establishing a Middle East defense alliance



Israeli-Palestinian conflict

- Educate on Israeli security needs and complexity of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict
- Oppose ICC investigation against Israel and the request for an ICJ advisory opinion, PA terror funding and incitement, and unilateral recognition of Palestinian statehood
- UNWRA



Antisemitism & delegitimization of Israel

- Fight growing antisemitism (with a focus on Israeli-related antisemitism)
- Expand the IHRA antisemitism definition to additional European countries
- Oppose BDS and delegitimization of Israel
- Block financing of BDS by European governments and the EU
- Counter Israel's delegitimization at the UN



Understanding of Israel & bilateral ties

- Educate on Israel as a pillar of stability and democracy in the Middle East
- Promote dialogue and cooperation on various issues
- Enhance bilateral ties between Europe and Israel
- Build on the renewal of the EU-Israel Association Council



Innovation & business

- Promote close bilateral relations, trade and cooperation on innovation and hi-tech between Israel and Europe
- Educate on Israel as a start-up nation



Transatlantic relations

- Promote closer transatlantic cooperation on key issues in the Middle East

Videos



ELNET Solidarity Missions after October 7



Highlights from ELNET's Third International Policy Conference



ELNET European Solidarity Mission to Israel October 2023



ELNET Digital Health Delegation to Germany



ELNET French Solidarity Mission to Israel October 2023



ELNET UK Cross-party Lords Delegation

Development of the Organization



*In 2023, ELNET's activities
reached an audience of*

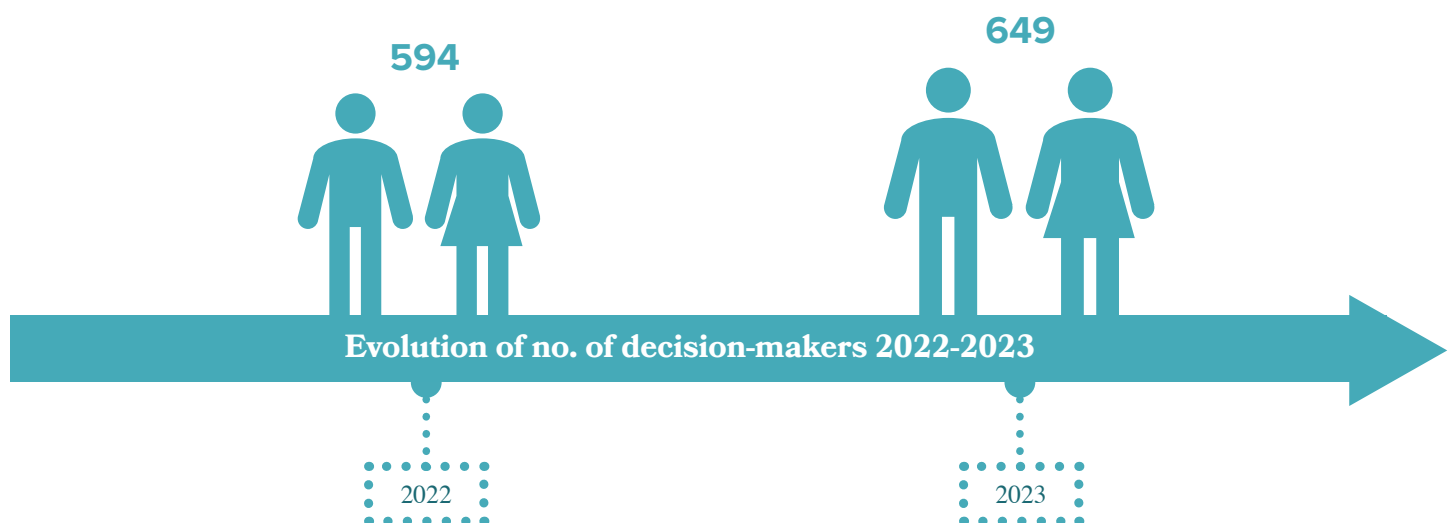
2,552

This year, ELNET engaged close to **650 top decision-makers** in its policy programs and reached an audience of **over 2,500** participants from the broader policy community. We had an **additional 17,200+** participants in GIHF-AI, GINSUM, workshops, and networking events. ELNET launched a **new regional office for Central and Eastern Europe (CEE)** and a **new office in Italy**. ELNET **expanded its policy outreach in Europe** with its **first delegations from CEE, the Czech Republic, and Kosovo**, as well as a **first-ever CEE-Israel Strategic Dialogue** and a **first-ever Israel-Romania Expert Dialogue**.

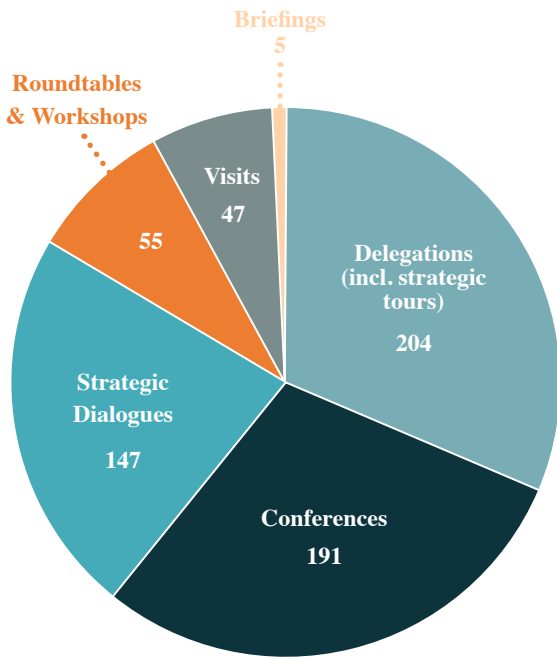
ELNET also continued connecting major pro-Israel NGOs in Europe to increase communication and cooperation. Finally, ELNET significantly upgraded its online presence through its multiple websites and social media accounts and increased press outreach in Europe, Israel, and the US.

In 2023, ELNET led and took part in **17 delegations to Israel, nine visits to Europe, 12 conferences, four briefings, five Strategic Dialogues, and ten roundtables and seminars**.

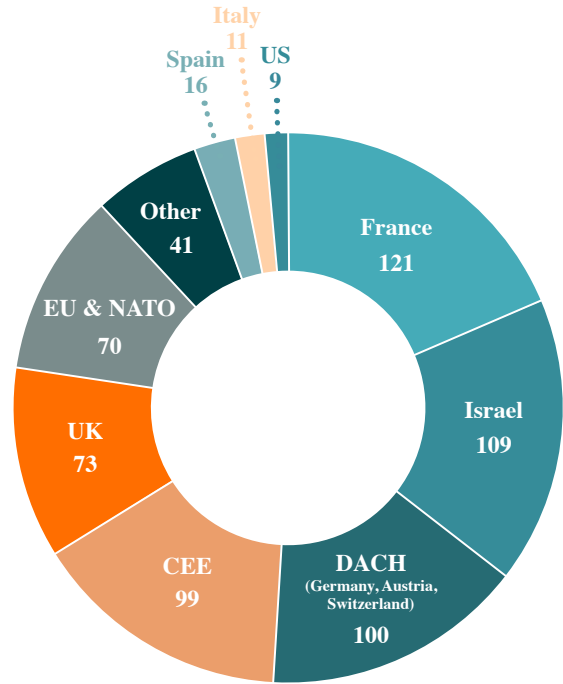
Close to 650 European, Israeli, US and Arab senior officials, policymakers, leading journalists, experts, and opinion leaders took part in our policy events or spoke at major international conferences in which ELNET was involved. Through these activities, ELNET reached a total audience of over **2,500 participants** from the broader policy community. In the following graphs, the numbers are broken down for each category and country of activity.



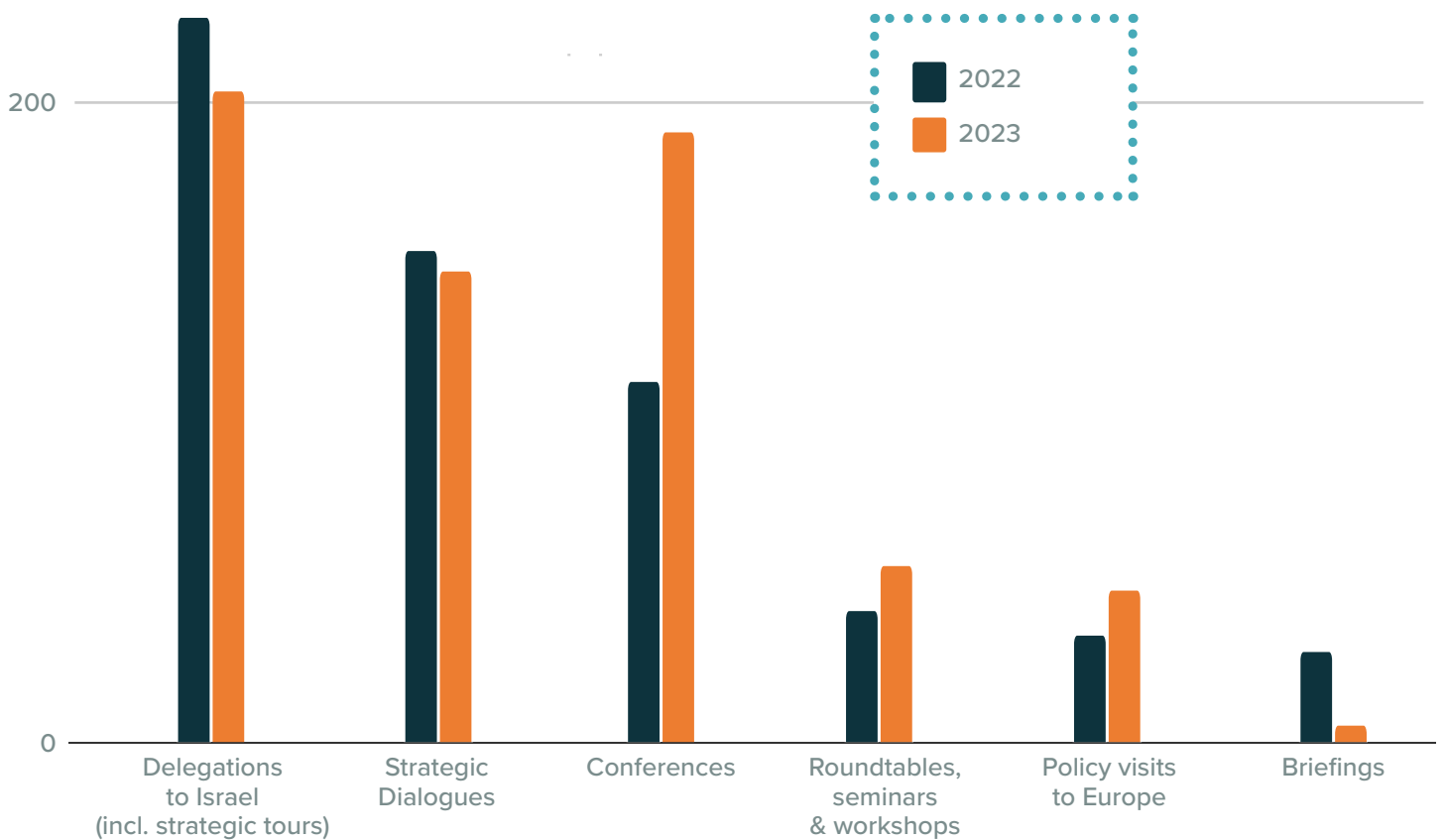
Number of decision-makers in ELNET's activities
PER CATEGORY 2023, total: **649**



Number of decision-makers in ELNET's activities
PER AFFILIATE 2023, total: **649**



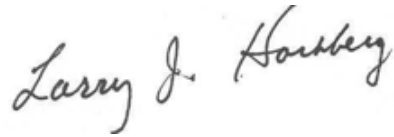
Number of decision-makers in ELNET's activities PER CATEGORY





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ELNET US



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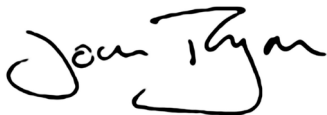
Carsten Ovens

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ELNET DACH



Matthijs Schussler

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ELNET EU & NATO



Joan Ryan

Chief Executive Officer,
ELNET UK



Marta Kubica

Chief Executive Officer,
ELNET CEE



Roberta Anati

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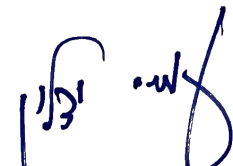
Dr. Emmanuel Navon

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David Siegel

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Chair, ELNET's Forum
of Strategic Dialogue