

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

on cultural and educational cooperation

between Austria and Israel

The first Austrian-Israeli cultural cooperation meeting was held in Vienna from 17 to 19 June 1996.

The object of the consultations was to deliberate and discuss the issue of intensifying and strengthening the cooperation in science, education and culture and to elaborate and sign the present Memorandum. Its substantive scope comprises all areas of cultural bilateral cooperation.

Both delegations shared the opinion that

The Republic of Austria and the State of Israel,

Mindful of the shared cultural traditions and history;

Considering that cultural and educational cooperation is of primary importance to human welfare and development, both nationally and internationally;

Taking into account the significant growth of bilateral exchanges and mutual collaboration between Austria and Israel in recent years;

In recognition of the contributions and activities of the autonomous cultural institutions in both countries in developing bilateral cooperation;

Assuming that autonomous cultural and educational institutions in both countries, each in its specific field of activity, shall contribute and continue to generate and promote joint cultural and educational cooperation;

Have a common interest in further intensifying the cooperation - based on reciprocity - through appropriate means available in the fields of science, education, youth, sports, arts and culture, as well as encourage cooperation in these areas within international frameworks such as the Council of Europe, UNESCO and the EU.

The Austrian delegation was led by Dr. Peter MARBOE, Director-General of the Cultural Policy Department of the Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

The Israeli delegation was led by Mr. Uri BAR-NER, Deputy Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Head of the Cultural and Scientific Relations Department.

A list of the members of both delegations is enclosed in Annex I to this Memorandum.

The Mixed Committee elaborated the attached working programme for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1999 (Annex II). The duration of this working programme may be extended upon mutual consent.

The next Austrian-Israeli cultural cooperation consultations will be held in Israel at the proposal of either side, however not before a period of three years.

Done in Vienna on 19 June 1996 in two originals written in English.

The head of the
Austrian delegation:



The head of the
Israeli delegation:



Annex I

Austrian Delegation

Dr. Peter MARBOE
Head of Delegation

Director General of the
Department for Cultural
Policy at the Federal
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Dr. Aurel SAUPE

Director of the Division
for Bilateral Foreign
Cultural Issues at the
Federal Ministry of Foreign
Affairs

Dr. Hans-Martin WINDISCH-GRÄTZ

Division for Bilateral
Foreign Cultural Issues at
the Federal Ministry of
Foreign Affairs

Mr. Marian WRBA

1st. Secretary, formerly
Austrian Embassy in Tel Aviv

Dr. Raoul KNEUCKER

Director General of the
Department for
International Issues at the
Federal Ministry of
Science, Transport and Arts

Dr. Hans TEMNITSCHKA

Director General of the
Department for Cultural
Issues at the Federal
Ministry of Science,
Transport and Arts

Dr. Margarethe POMPL

Division for General
Foreign Issues at the
Federal Ministry of
Science, Transport and Arts

Dr. Bernd HARTMANN

Division for Basic Cultural
Policy Issues at the
Federal Ministry of
Science, Transport and Arts

Dr. Anton DOBART

Director General of the
Department for General
Schooling, Education
Planning and International
Matters at the Federal
Ministry of Education and
Cultural Affairs

Mr. Walter HEURITSCH	Director General of the Department for Vocational Training at the Federal Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs
Ms. Elisabeth MORAWEK	Director of the Subdepartment for Political Education at the Federal Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs
Ms. Martina LASTER-MASCHKE	Division for Bilateral Issues at the Federal Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs
Hon. Prof.Dr. Lorenz MIKOLETZKY	Director General of the Austrian State Archives
Ms. Karin GROSSMANN	Director of the Division for International Sports Issues at the Federal Chancellery
Dr. Sigrid PILZ	Director of the Subdepartment for the International Coordination of Youth-related EU, EEA and EFTA Issues at the Federal Ministry of Environment, Youth and the Family
Mr. Gerhard AUINGER	Translator

Israeli Delegation

Mr. Uri BAR-NER
Head of Delegation

Deputy Director General
and Head of the Cultural and
Scientific Relations Department
Ministry of Foreign Affairs ✓

Mr. Yair LEVIN

Deputy Director General in
charge of Foreign Relations
Ministry of Education, Culture
and Sports ✓

Ms. Dina SOREK

Director, Cultural and
Scientific Agreements Division,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs ✓

Dr. Dan RONEN

Director, Division of Culture
and Art, the Art and Culture
Administration,
Ministry of Science and Arts

Mr. Doron Mordechai GROSSMANN

Counsellor
Embassy of Israel in Vienna

Annex II

WORKING PROGRAMME

I. SCIENCE

1. Scientific cooperation and scientific exchange.

Both sides express their satisfaction concerning the implementation of the Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation concluded between the Austrian Federal Ministry for Science and Research and the Government of the State of Israel (Jerusalem, 2 February 1994), which entered into force on 26 December 1994.

In the context of this Agreement, the two sides have reached a consensus in their first meeting, inter alia, on the following high-priority projects:

"The relations between Austria and Israel from 1945 until 1993";

"A history of the Jews in Austria";

A project entitled "Studies of Electron Transport in Ultra-Pure Bulk GaAs for the Generation of THz Frequencies".

In addition, both sides have agreed to give priority to the advancement of cooperation in the following fields:

- Electro-optics
- Biotechnology and Molecular Biology
- Material Sciences
- Environmental Analysis and Environmental Technology.

As a result of the recently held bilateral expert meeting, the funding of 6 projects was approved.

2. Both sides express their satisfaction with regard to the Agreement on Scientific and Scholarly Cooperation between the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the Israeli Academy of Sciences and Humanities signed in Jerusalem on 6 December 1993 and which also provides for the possible exchange of scientific personnel.

3. Both sides express their satisfaction with regard to the Protocol on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Austrian Research Promotion Fund and the National Council for Research and Development of the State of Israel, which has been in effect since 23 April 1990.

4. Both sides underline the importance of direct contacts between universities, art colleges and research institutions in the two countries.

Both sides will further encourage relations between university rectors in order to deepen scientific and academic cooperation.

In this regard, they welcome the establishment of university cooperation projects such as the "Cooperation Agreement between the University of Vienna and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem" of June 1993.

5. University chairs

Both sides emphasize the importance of the development and expansion of the study and teaching, at university level and within other educational frameworks, of the language, literature and culture of the other country. For this purpose, the Parties will organise seminars and exchange publications and lecturers.

Both sides underline the importance of the "Dr. Kardinal-König Chair" established at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Both sides welcome the creation of a "Karin-Brandauer Chair for Dramatic Art" at the University of Tel Aviv in 1995 and of an "Austrian Chair for Biblical Archeology", also established at the University of Tel Aviv and financed by the Austrian Nationalbank, by the Austrian Kontrollbank and by Bank Austria and acknowledge their activities with great interest.

In this context, both sides welcome the activities of the Institute for Jewish Studies at the University of Vienna as well as the establishment of such chairs at other Austrian universities.

6. Exchange of information

Both sides undertake to exchange information on university programmes and curricula upon request.

7. Recognition of diplomas

With regard to European agreements concerning the recognition of university studies, diplomas and degrees, the two parties underline the importance of a mutual recognition of university diplomas and degrees, and also the possibility of recognising academic exams. Both sides are willing to exchange pertinent information and to look for ways to solve all questions that may arise in this regard.

8. Scholarships/Fellowships

Both sides will encourage students and young researchers of both countries to make use of the existing exchange programmes, such as the universities' partnerships or special funds for short-term visits, the fellowships of the Ministries or the Research Funding Organisations for research or art work whenever applicable.

Both sides agree to secure that at least two postgraduate scholarships, on a fully reciprocal basis, are offered for exchange purposes each year.

9. Friendship societies

Both sides express their fundamental appreciation of the valuable work performed by friendship societies such as the Austrian Friends of Tel Aviv University, the Austrian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the Austrian Friends of the Weizmann Institute and the Austrian Friends of the Technion in Haifa.

II. EDUCATION

10. Adult education

Both sides are satisfied to acknowledge the existing contacts between the Federal Institute for Adult Education, the Federation of Austrian Institutes of Adult Education (Volkshochschulen) and their Israeli partner organisations, the Beit Berl College and the Education Ministry in Jerusalem and encourage them to further intensify their cooperation.

11. Seminars for experts in education

Both sides express their interest in cooperation in the field of education.

In this context, both sides encourage the mutual organisation of educator/expert seminars. Main areas of instruction and financial conditions will be settled through the diplomatic channels.

Both sides express their hope that a pilot seminar for 10 Austrian experts in education will take place in Israel still in 1996.

In the field of advanced training for language teachers, the Austrian side offers Israeli teachers the opportunity to participate in linguistic and cultural seminars within the framework of "German as a Foreign Language" ("Deutsch als Fremdsprache"). All financial conditions and further instructions will be announced through the diplomatic channels.

12. Seminars on the Holocaust

Both sides stress the importance of education of young people with regard to the Holocaust.

The Austrian side expresses its interest in the seminars offered by the pedagogical division of Yad Vashem. The Federal Ministry for Education and Cultural Affairs intends to accept the offer of "one-day seminars at Austrian upper-level secondary schools" starting in the 1996/97 school year and to approve the invitation of two lecturers for presentations at Austrian upper-level secondary schools (age 14 to 18) for a total of 20 person-days per school year.

The Israeli side informs the Austrian side that Yad Vashem intends to publish a lexicon of "The Righteous of All Nations" and asks for Austrian participation in the implementation of this project.

13. Exchange of experts and experiences

Both sides call for a regular exchange of experts and experiences in teaching and education.

Both sides agree to make relevant information material available to interested parties.

14. Technical, technological and vocational education and training

Both sides express their interest in cooperation in the area of technical, technological and vocational education and training institutions and encourage an exchange of ideas on a regular basis.

15. School partnerships

Both sides underline the importance of student encounters and encourage, with emphasis, an intensification of school partnerships. For this purpose both sides will promote contacts between the organisers.

16. Handbook of Israel for Austrian schools

The Federal Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs offers to publish a Handbook of Israel which will be used as part of the "civic education" syllabus at Austrian schools.

The Handbook is to be published in 1997, to be used as a source reference for a school project competition with a final presentation of the results in 1998 (50th anniversary of the State of Israel).

17. School book analysis

With the aim of ensuring an objective representation of the history, geography and culture of each of the two countries, both sides recommend mutual analyses of text books and the elaboration of joint recommendations.

III. YOUTH AND SPORTS

18. Extracurricular youth exchanges

The Federal Ministry for Environment, Youth and the Family will invite both public-sector youth institutions and non-governmental organisations to establish and to intensify contacts with Israeli institutions.

It is further intended to enhance expert-level exchanges of ideas, e.g., including an expert meeting on the future development of youth exchanges to be held in autumn 1996, which are designed to find new channels for cooperation within the context of future youth exchange agreements with the Public Council for the Exchange of Youth and Young Adults. Full use for the purpose of cooperating with Israel is to be made of youth exchange facilities with third countries available within the framework of the EU Action Programme "Youth for Europe" (Action D).

With the support and assistance of this EU programme, a project on the topic "Dealing with Conflicts" will be initiated by Austria and carried out together with Spain and Sweden.

This project will attempt to build up cooperation structures between Israeli and Palestinian youth organisations.

The Israeli delegation acknowledges the Austrian youth projects which have brought together Israeli and Arab young people in order to promote the Middle-East Peace Process, and encourages further activities in this field.

19. Youth projects

Both sides agree that the exchange of youth and young adults constitutes a major contribution to the relations between the two countries.

They will therefore support youth projects aimed at organising joint discussions on topical issues.

The Austrian side notes that the project "Spurensuche" ("Searching for traces"), which was already carried out in Austria in 1994 and 1995, is to be resumed in 1997. The aim of this project is to enable the third post-war generation in Israel to get to know the roots of their Austrian ancestors and to meet and discuss with young Austrians.

To follow-up on the project "Nahost-Friedensforum" (Middle East Peace Forum), which was launched in 1994, a multilateral project entitled "Crossing Borders" will be organised by the Bruno-Kreisky Forum in Vienna. This Austrian undertaking is intended to give young people from the region the opportunity of making personal contacts in Israel, in territories under the administration of the Palestinian authority, in Egypt and in Jordan. This should be done in close cooperation with the respective embassies and competent authorities.

Both sides welcome, in this context, additional initiatives such as the "Hall of Encounter" in Jerusalem, and other youth exchange projects such as those organised by the Jewish Welcome Service.

20. Cooperation in sports

Both sides encourage the establishment of direct contacts in the field of sports including contacts between the sports organisations of the two countries.

IV. ARTS AND CULTURE

21. Contacts between public and private institutions

Both sides encourage the establishment of more direct contacts between their public and private institutions in the fields of arts and culture. Such activities are to be supported as far as possible within the framework of domestic cultural policy.

Both sides welcome the continual strengthening of direct contacts between their respective institutions and organisations in the various branches of arts and culture.

22. Exchange of cultural and art experts

Both sides express their hope that an exchange of cultural and art experts extending over a total of 80 person-days will be achieved during the programme period.

23. Museums

Both sides express their interest in a cooperation between museums.

In this context, both sides welcome the recent commencement of cooperation between Vienna's Museum of Art History (Kunsthistorisches Museum) and the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.

Both sides express their satisfaction that the exhibition "Treasures of the Land of the Bible" will be presented in Vienna's Museum of Art History in 1997.

The Israeli side informs the Austrian side of its plan to present a photo exhibition of the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's life in Vienna in 1996.

With a view to intensifying the exchange of experiences, both sides intend to host museum experts of the other country for a period of 10 person-days during the programme.

24. Cooperation between Israeli museums and Jewish museums in Austria

Both sides encourage close cooperation between Israeli museums and the Jewish museums in Austria by exchanging exhibitions and curators. For this purpose, the two sides will allocate, during this programme, two experts for five days each.

25. "Art Focus" event

The Israeli side invites Austrian museum directors and curators to participate in the "Art Focus" event which will take place in Israel during 1997.

26. Archives

Both sides encourage the cooperation between the archive administrations of the two countries through the exchange of scientific publications, microfilms, and document copies within the framework of domestic legal provisions.

Both sides agree to find solutions concerning the intentions expressed in the exchange of letters in 1986 between Ambassador Elizur and Director-General Dr. Neck concerning selected items from the archives of the Jewish communities in Burgenland, now deposited at the State Archives in Eisenstadt.

27. Theatre and dance

Both sides welcome recent joint activities between Austrian and Israeli institutions and express their interest in further cooperation in the fields of theatre and dance.

The two sides will encourage cooperation between drama schools in the two countries.

28. Music

Both sides welcome recent joint activities between Austrian and Israeli institutions and express their interest in further cooperation in the field of music, especially also contemporary music.

The Israeli side is pleased to announce that the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra will perform in Vienna in February 1997.

Both sides welcome the activities of the annual Leonard Bernstein Jerusalem International Music Competitions and will explore possibilities to facilitate the semifinals which take place in Vienna.

29. Film

Both sides encourage the organisation of special film weeks featuring films of the other country during the programme period.

Both sides encourage the mutual participation in film festivals in both countries. Both sides will study the possibilities of signing a coproduction agreement.

30. Literature

Both sides encourage the mutual participation in book fairs and similar events in the two countries, especially in the field of children's and youth literature.

Both sides encourage the translation of books by authors of each country into the language of the other country.

Both sides encourage the short-term exchange of writers/translators under Article 22.

The Israeli side welcomes the establishment of the Austrian Library at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

31. Artistic performances

The organisation of music, dance or theatre performances should primarily be based on a direct agreement between the organisers and artists concerned as to the financial and other conditions while any extra funding should only be regarded as a supplement subject to the availability of resources.

32. Exhibitions

As regards agreements relating to the exchange or organisation of exhibitions, internationally accepted conditions will be recognised. Any additional provisions will be worked out by the organisers from case to case through the diplomatic channels.

33. Cultural research and cultural management

Both sides encourage the exchange of ideas in the field of cultural research and documentation.

The Austrian side offers one Israeli participant the opportunity to take part in the European Summer Academy for Culture and Management to be held in Salzburg during the term of this Memorandum.

34. Cultural Attaché

In view of the overall volume of cultural exchange both sides underline the necessity of establishing a permanent position of a cultural affairs officer at the respective embassies.

V. ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIONS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

35. 50 Years State of Israel

The Israeli side asks for the cooperation of the Austrian side in organizing Israeli cultural events to mark the 50-year anniversary of the State of Israel in 1998.

36. The "Year of Zionism"

The Israeli side acknowledges the many Austrian activities with regard to the 100th anniversary of Theodor Herzl and invites Austria to continue these activities during the forthcoming "Year of Zionism" (1997).

37. "Intellectual dialog"

Both sides will explore the possibilities of organising a comprehensive meeting of leading figures from different fields of society.

VI. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS AND HEALTH INSURANCE

The two sides will inform at their earliest convenience each other on their respective provisions in writing.