



EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP NETWORK

# Israel Survey

Europe 2022

# The state of relations between Israel and European States

For the first time, the European Leadership Network (ELNET) surveyed parliamentarians across Europe, including the UK, about their views on bilateral relations with Israel, national Middle East policy, and Jewish life in Europe. 305 MPs from seven countries participated in this survey.

In general, an overwhelming majority of European parliamentarians surveyed consider their national relations with Israel to be very good or rather good (83%). While for most, historic responsibility forms the basis for this relationship, common values and interests are strong motives for European parliamentarians.

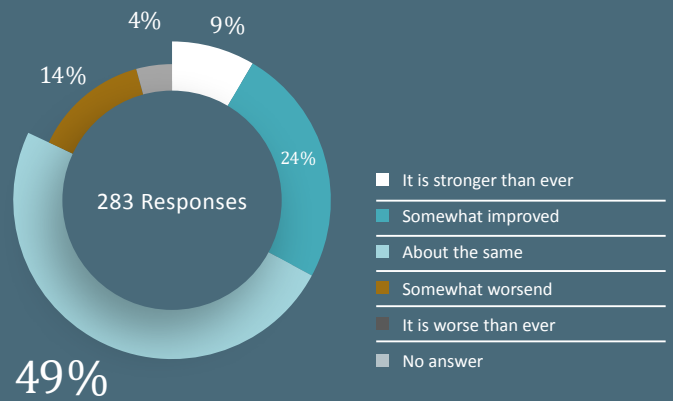
While priorities vary from country to country, MPs agree: around two-thirds of European politicians surveyed want greater cooperation with Israel and argue that their countries should assume more responsibility under the Abraham Accords.

In light of the changing global and regional order and the growing (nuclear) threat of armament in the Middle East, the survey results are an appeal to the European Union and to Europe's national governments and parliaments.

## 1 Status & nature of relations with Israel

Fig. 1

► *To what extent has the relationship between Israel and your country changed in the last five years?*



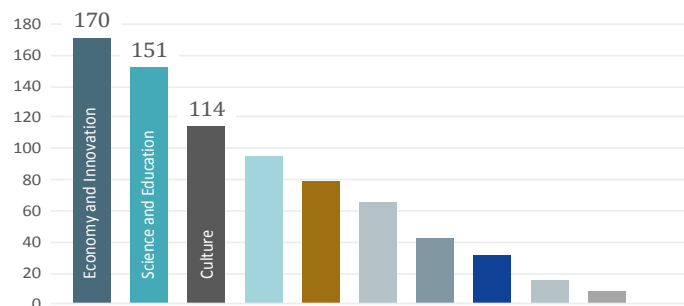
▲ 24% of all MPs see an improvement in the relationship in the last five years.

- Overall, 21% of the MPs interviewed (294 Responses), rate the relationship between Israel and their country as "very good" and 62% as "rather good".

## 2 Potential for cooperation

Fig. 2 (276 Responses)

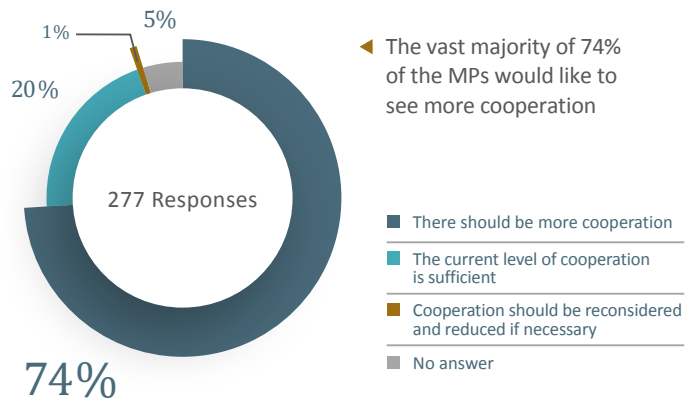
► *In which areas would you like to see particular close cooperation with Israel? (up to three possible answers)*



■ Economy and Innovation	170
■ Science and Education	151
■ Culture	114
■ Domestic Security	95
■ Climate and Environment	79
■ Defense	65
■ Health	43
■ Energy	31
■ Agriculture	16
■ No Answer	8

Fig. 3

► *How do you evaluate the current bilateral cooperation with Israel?*



◀ The vast majority of 74% of the MPs would like to see more cooperation

### There is a strong interest in more Cooperation

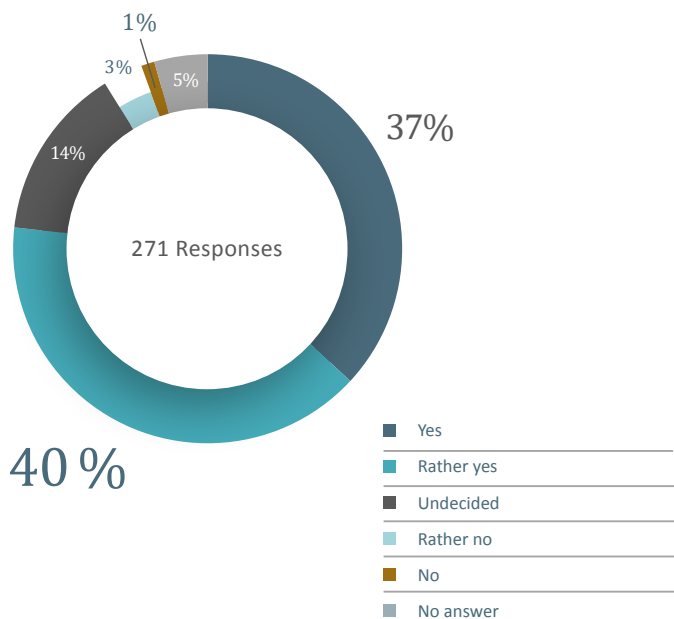
◀ Overall, the main focus is on the areas of economy and innovation, science and education, and culture

- In Germany, cooperation in science and education comes first, followed by economy and innovation, and culture.
- France has a strong security focus. After economy and innovation, domestic security comes second (73%, n=26 and defense third (42%, n=26)
- For Spain, both domestic security and energy are jointly in first place (50%/50%, n=6).

### 3 Foreign policy and regional involvement

Fig.4

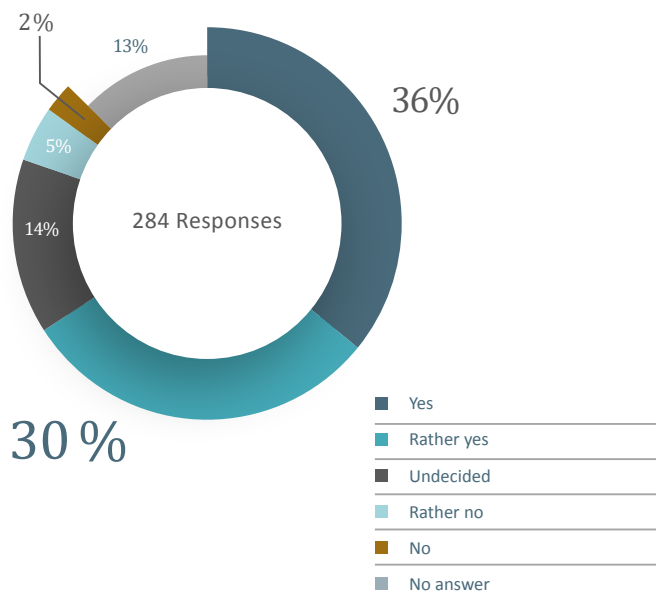
▶ *Abraham Accords: Should your country play a stronger role in seeking cooperation and peace between Israel and other Arab states?*



▲ High approval of a more active role in the normalization process between Israel and the Arab states. 77% of MPs answered “yes” and “rather yes”.

Fig. 5

▶ *JCPOA: Should your country seek closer strategic coordination with Israel in renegotiating the Vienna nuclear deal and in dealing with Iran broadly?*

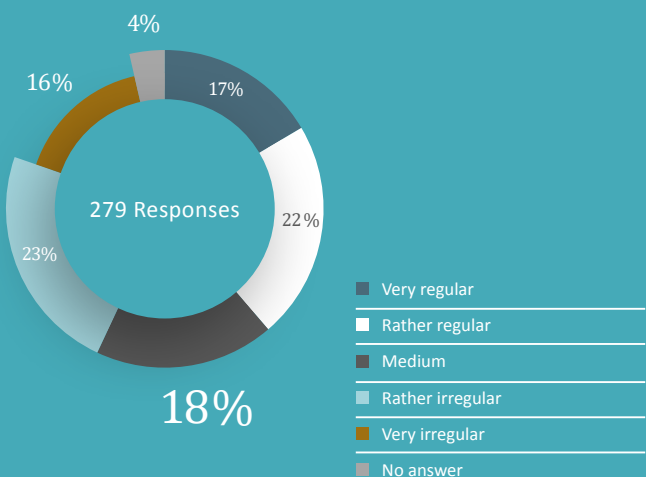


▲ Coordination with Israeli positions in the renegotiation of the JCPOA is also met with high rates of approval. 66% of MPs answered “yes” and “rather yes”.

### 4 Jewish communities and antisemitism

Fig. 6

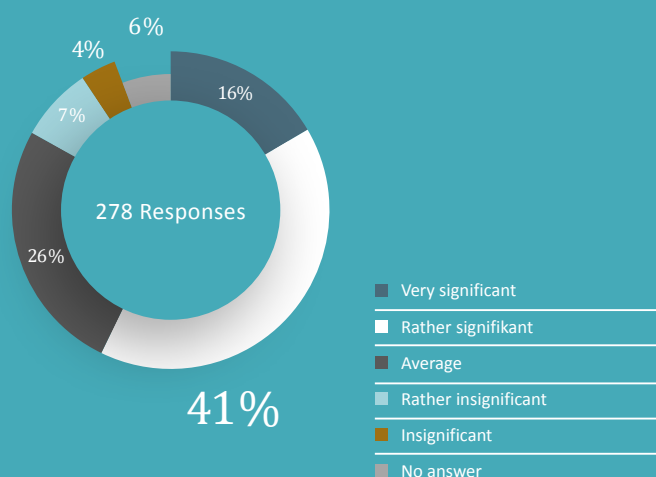
▶ *How regularly do you communicate with Jewish communities in your country?*



▲ 39% of MPs communicate “very regularly” and “rather regularly” with local Jewish communities .

Fig. 7

▶ *In your view, to what extent is Israel-related antisemitism a problem in your country?*



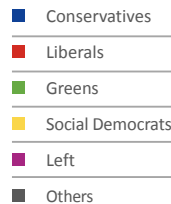
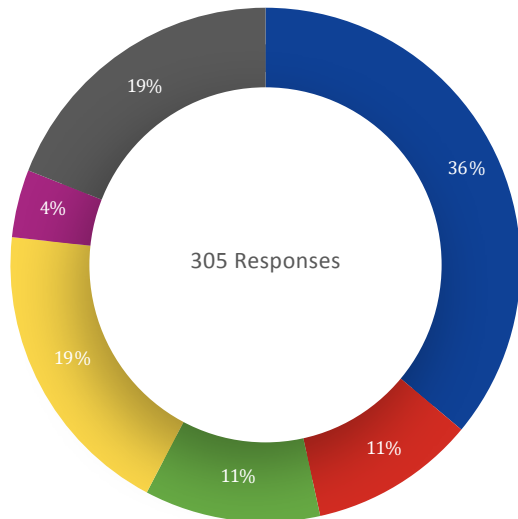
▲ 57% of MPs rate Israel-related antisemitism as a “very significant” and “rather significant” problem.

## 5 Survey Data

In total, 305 Members of Parliaments from Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Latvia, Spain, and the UK participated in the survey (The survey was conducted from January to March 2022)

Fig. 8

▶ **Parliamentary groups** (Invitations to participate were sent to all parliamentary groups, excluding far-right nationalist and populist parties)



◀ The greatest interest in the survey was shown by members of conservative parties, followed by members of social democratic parties.

\* France has meanwhile elected a new parliament, all findings here are still based on the 15th National Assembly (2017-2022).

## About ELNET

The European Leadership Network (ELNET) is a non-partisan policy organization that works to strengthen relations between Europe, including the UK, and Israel by promoting political, strategic and diplomatic cooperation, based on shared democratic values and mutual strategic interests.

ELNET's actions, inspired by the European dream, is firmly rooted in the promotion of freedom, justice, and peace. Our work is focused on foreign and security policy, combating all forms of antisemitism based on the IHRA definition, and fostering innovation for a better world.

ELNET strongly believes in the mutual benefit of close relations between Europe and Israel and works independently. Our offices in Brussels, Berlin, London, Paris, Tel Aviv, Warsaw as well as activities in other European countries strengthen the dialogue between European and Israeli decision-makers in politics, economics and society.

ELNET fosters experience on the ground by organizing delegations and conferences, while encouraging parliamentary diplomacy through dialogue formats and campaigns.

ELNET is supported by a large number of private individuals, corporations, foundations, and institutional partners.

**European Leadership Network (ELNET)**

[www.elnetwork.eu](http://www.elnetwork.eu)

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