

**Minutes of a Meeting**

**Between**

**the Minister of Science and Technology of  
the State of Israel**

**and**

**the Vice-Minister of Science and Research of  
the State of North-Rhine Westphalia**

**Concerning**

**the Intensification of Cooperation in Science,  
Research and Technology Transfer**

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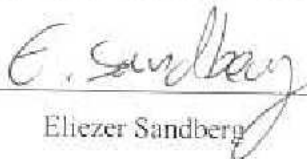
1. The Minister of Science and Technology of the State of Israel, Mr. Eliezer Sandberg, and the Vice-Minister of the State of North-Rhine-Westphalia, Mr. Hartmut Krebs, have met in Jerusalem during the visit of H.E. the Minister President of the State of North-Rhine Westphalia - Mr. Peer Steinbrück - in Israel from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> May 2004 (Hereinafter referred to as "The Parties").
2. The Parties have emphasized their willingness to intensify the cooperation between the Ministry of Science and Technology of the State Israel and the Ministry of Science and Research of the State North-Rhine Westphalia by establishing a Joint Commission for Science and Research (hereinafter - the "JC") in order to promote the bilateral cooperation and collaboration in the fields of science, research and technology transfer.
3. The scope of activities between The Parties will be in accordance with the domestic law of each Party and availability of funds for this purpose.
4. The JC will elaborate scientific and research topics of mutual interest of both Parties and will try to identify areas of possible collaboration between government, companies and scientific institutions in the High-Tech sector in such fields as information and communications technology, electrical engineering, opto-electronics, medical technology, bio-technology and environmental technologies.

5. The JC will encourage the participation of the science and the business sectors in both countries – individuals as well as companies and institutions - in its activity.
6. The main purpose of the JC's work is to promote the bilateral or multilateral cooperation and collaboration between individuals, companies and institutions in both countries by means of:
  - a. Mutual information on cooperation opportunities;
  - b. Assistance in mediating contacts between universities, science and research institutions, business enterprises, research establishments and technology transfer institutions in order to promote the exchange of opinions and experiences which are beneficial for both sides;
  - c. Arranging joint symposia in higher education, science, research and technology in fields of common interest;
  - d. Assistance to delegations and meetings in Israel and North-Rhine-Westphalia.
7. The JC will be composed of five prominent persons from each state to be appointed by the Minister of Science and Technology of the State of Israel for the Israeli partners and by the Minister of the State North-Rhine Westphalia for the German partners among different authorities and institutions, important research and technology institutions, universities and the industrial sector in the field of science and research. The JC would endeavour to meet annually, alternately in North-Rhine Westphalia or in Israel. The Parties will nominate 2 chairpersons, one from the Israeli side and one from the German side.
8. It is envisaged that the JC will function until the end of the year 2007, by which date the Two Ministries will decide upon its further function and activities.
9. Both Parties intend to conduct the following Working Program for the years 2004-2006 that will be carried out according to the following terms:
  - a. Qualified students from various universities in Israel will be offered a short term study up to 3 month in North-Rhine Westphalia in order to finalize their bachelor examination work or a master-thesis. The students will be informed in detail about the higher education and the

research opportunities in North-Rhine Westphalia and will be able to develop the bilateral network. This exchange will be funded with annual 50.000 € by the State of North-Rhine Westphalia. The project will be coordinated by the Israeli Ministry of Science and Technology and by the Centre of Science for North-Rhine Westphalia.

- b. Highly qualified master graduates from various universities in Israel will be offered yearly three academic opportunities for doctoral studies at Graduate Schools in North-Rhine Westphalia. The applicants will be selected by a public committee nominated by the Israeli Ministry of Science and Technology in close collaboration with the participating Graduate Schools in accordance with their regulations. These students will be granted three year PhD study program at the highest international and interdisciplinary level in various technological fields.
- c. Both Ministries shall promote the cooperation between the Research and Development Centers, supported by the Israeli Ministry of Science and Technology and the Centre of Science North-Rhine Westphalia in order to enhance the collaboration in the field of science and research between Israel and North-Rhine Westphalia, Germany and the European Union.

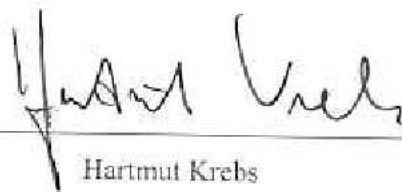
Signed in Jerusalem, this 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 2004



Elezer Sandberg

Minister of Science and Technology

of the State of Israel



Hartmut Krebs

Vice-Minister of Science and Technology

of the State of North-Rhine Westphalia