
The European Role in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Perceptions and Future Possibilities

– A conference for European, Israeli, Palestinian students and young professionals –

12 – 20 January 2007 in Schloss Trebnitz (near Berlin), Germany
and
March 2007, Talitha Kumi/Palestinian Territories



dialogue lab (www.dialogue-lab.org) is organising a conference on the European role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in co-operation with Palestinian Vision (www.palestinianvision.org) and the Young Israeli Forum for Cooperation, YIFC (www.yifc.org). The conference is part of a series of encounters (the latest having been taking place in Egmond/Netherlands in December 2004), which aims at establishing a network of committed students and young professionals who will take on an active role in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. The conference enables the participants to exchange their views on the conflict, to become aware of the different perceptions of the 'other' and to build structures for constructive and pragmatic projects in the future.

The conference will comprise of the following activities:

- Creating a common vision for the potential of the younger generation to have a constructive influence on the conflict
- Workshops discussing core issues of the conflict and civil society's potential for change:
 - 1st workshop – Media and Education:**
What are the dynamics of the media's impact on the conflict, both national and international? What role does education play in the past, current and the future perception of the other side and the conflict in general? In addition to the overall theme of civil society's impact, options for this workshop are a joint analysis of current media coverage and educational material.
 - 2nd workshop – Politics:**
An exchange of the perceptions of the recent events in Israel and Palestine – how did they shape the way the parties communicate? What is the scope of influence for the younger generation in the post-Arafat and post-Sharon era? What advantages/problems do you see in a possible involvement of Europe in this issue?
 - 3rd workshop – Religion and Culture:**
To what extent does religion play a role in the conflict? How do cultural differences affect the perceptions of interaction and the course of events? How should activities be conceptualised that are aimed at reframing the culturally conditioned images?
- Planning of follow-up activities
- Expert lectures on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and on European policy-making
- A cultural and social programme in Berlin
- A **3-day Follow-up in Talitha Kumi/Palestinian Territories in March** to assess the progress made thus far and plan future activities which reflect the achievements of the group.

For the European participants, a **1-day preparatory seminar** will take place prior to the conference. The day of arrival is thus **10 January**. In addition to the Follow-up, the European participants are invited to a **4-day study trip to key locations in Israel and the Palestinian Territories**.

The **conference fee** is 100 Euro. This covers:

- Accommodation and board in Schloss Trebnitz/Germany (preparatory seminar and conference) and Talitha Kumi/Palestinian Territories (Follow-up)
- 70% of travel and insurance costs to/from Trebnitz (max. €200)
- Airfare Europe – Tel Aviv – Europe for the Follow-up

How to apply:

>> **European applicants:** Please note that European applicants must be nationals of EU member states.

Our intention is to gather a group of 36 well informed and highly motivated Israelis, Palestinians and Europeans aged between 21 and 35 with a wide range of political beliefs and social backgrounds. Participants must be fluent in English (official language of the conference). We strongly encourage applicants interested in helping to arrange future activities between European, Israeli and Palestinian students / young professionals.

Please kindly:

1. Write a **motivation letter**, which explains your interest in attending the conference and describes your experiences with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict/the Middle East/the EU (max. 1000 words). Please add your **CV** and save motivation letter and CV as one Microsoft Word file, titled: "application_FIRST NAME_LAST NAME". All documents must be submitted in English.
2. Please download and fill in the Microsoft Excel file / application form and save it titled: "form_FIRST NAME_LAST NAME".

Please send both documents to "berlinconference@dialogue-lab.org". If you have any questions please do not hesitate and write to the respective contact person:

Germany: Carolin Fischer (carolin@dialogue-lab.org)

All other: Hendrik Milz (hendrik@dialogue-lab.org)

Deadline for applications: 1st December 2006

>> **Israeli and Palestinian applicants:** Please contact our Israeli and Palestinian partner organisations, berlin@yifc.org and info@palestinianvision.org, respectively.

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