

The Bundestag discussed the situation in the Middle East on Wednesday, 1 July 2020. A motion by the CDU/CSU and SPD entitled "Promoting peace, security and stability in the Middle East - adhering to the goal of the negotiated two-state solution" ([19/20594](#)) was adopted by a majority of the applicants, with the Left, the Greens, the AfD and several members of the FDP parliamentary group abstaining.

Here parts of the adopted motion:

[...]

The German Bundestag calls on Federal Government

1. to approach the new Israeli government in the spirit of the special German-Israeli relations, which are based on the historical responsibility towards Israel, and to tie in seamlessly with the broad and at the same time close partnership in all areas of bilateral relations;
2. to continue to use the special relations and contacts to express our existing concerns to the Israeli government and to underline our urgent request to the Israeli government to refrain from annexing parts of the West Bank and from further expansion of the settlements, both of which would be contrary to international law;
3. continue to work for a solution to the Middle East conflict on the basis of a negotiated two-state solution, a Jewish and democratic state of Israel within recognised and permanently secure borders and an independent, democratic and viable Palestinian state living side by side in peace and security. A unilateral extension of sovereignty to parts of the West Bank could also endanger Israel's identity as a Jewish and democratic state;
4. at the same time, to work within the EU for a coherent and unified position and to promote the EU's active role in finding a sustainable solution to the Middle East conflict. In this context, the EU should seek talks with the new Israeli Government in order to dissuade it from the prospect of annexing parts of the West Bank, in the light of existing UN resolutions, the principles laid down therein and the objective of a two-state solution, and also to address the possible international precedent and negative effects on the relationship between the EU and Israel;
5. express that discussions on unilateral sanctions or threats of sanctions have no constructive effect on an Israeli-Palestinian settlement or understanding process;
6. Encourage the EU to step up its dialogue with the US, the UN and regional partners in a multilateral framework on this issue and to promote a revival of the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians, mediated by the Quartet and involving relevant partners and actors;
7. also to work to ensure that the EU approaches the new Israeli government constructively and makes offers to further develop the EU-Israel partnership on the basis of the EU-Israel Association Agreement and to intensify it on important issues for the future;
8. in the course of this cooperation, particularly in the context of the challenges posed by the corona virus, it is important to also look at the field of health care with new dynamism. Pandemics are a common threat that can only be countered on the ground through cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians and international cooperation with both sides;

9. to strengthen, both bilaterally and in the EU framework, its assessment to the Palestinian Authority that overcoming the internal divisions of the Palestinian leadership, a long-standing and urgent need for democratic legitimacy and renewal of Palestinian institutions, and a constructive commitment to non-violent conflict resolution are indispensable prerequisites for a sustainable peace. Violence and calls for violence must be condemned in the clearest possible terms;
10. to advocate both bilaterally and in the EU framework vis-à-vis the Palestinian Authority that unilateral initiatives for the recognition of Palestinian statehood be refrained from in order not to jeopardise a negotiated two-state solution;
11. remain firmly opposed to any rhetoric of annihilation against Israel;
12. continue to resolutely oppose attempts to delegitimize Israel in international organizations, especially in the context of Germany's current membership of the UN Security Council and the EU Council Presidency beginning on 1 July 2020. Like any other country, Israel must deal constructively with legitimate criticism

Berlin, June 30, 2020

Ralph Brinkhaus, Alexander Dobrindt and faction of CDU/CSU

Dr. Rolf Mützenich and faction of SPD

Plenary protocoll - transcript of the speeches: <https://dip21.bundestag.de/dip21/btp/19/19169.pdf> - p. 60ff

Videos with the speeches: <https://www.bundestag.de/dokumente/textarchiv/2020/kw27-de-naher-osten-701712>

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