



**Ministry of Justice of the State of Israel  
Minister of Justice Yaakov Neeman**

Brussels, 30 April 2010

Dear Minister Neeman,

The Party of European Socialists is deeply concerned by the recent adoption of the “Bill on disclosure requirements for recipients of support from a foreign political entity” by the Knesset’s Constitution, Law and Justice Committee on the 17 March 2010.

The PES believes that this bill is aimed at deligitimising the New Israel Fund (NIF), a US based progressive NGO, chaired by the distinguished former MK and Professor Naomi Chazan, and its network of partner organizations in Israel. The result of this bill’ final entering into force will be the general undermining of the influence of civil society and NGOs in Israel.

The bill therefore threatens the capacity of NGOs and civil society to effectively conduct their activities and impairs their ability for advocacy. A thriving progressive civil society and the common values it is based on are a quintessential cornerstone of any modern democracy and democratic political culture. Its weakening cannot be in the interest of the democratic culture in Israel.

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The PES therefore calls on you to do everything within your authority to strengthen and to protect the fundamental rights, influence and sustainability of civil society and NGOs. We offer you our continued support and co-operation in this endeavour.

Best regards,

**Poul Nyrup Rasmussen  
President of the Party of European Socialists  
Prime Minister of Denmark 1993-2001**

