



**Prime Minister's Office of Israel
Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu**

Brussels, 30 April 2010

Dear Prime Minister Netanyahu,

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.

The PES calls on you and your government to strongly reconsider the debates and anticipated passing of this bill. It remains your task to protect the democratic rights of the New Israel Fund, all other NGOs and of civil society.

The Party of European Socialists remains committed to negotiations, mediation, the two state solution and securing peace between Israel and its neighbours. We endorse any initiatives with these goals in mind and therefore 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**

