

# Israel Solidarity Forum of the German Economy

December 7, 2023  
9-10.35h (Germany) / 10-11.35h (Israel)  
Zoom

This forum is hosted by the [European Leadership Network \(ELNET\)](#), exactly two months after Hamas' brutal attacks on Israel. While the whole country is suffering, the war against Hamas also impacts Israel's economy, in particular the tech sector for which Israel is known as Startup Nation. Many companies face severe personnel shortages due to reservists being called up for defense, as well as decreased international venture capital investments. Israel has learned to be resilient and adaptable from past conflicts, successfully overcoming these challenges. Yet, what holds utmost importance now is fostering ongoing commitment and starting new partnerships with international businesses. ELNET has been linking the German economy with the Israeli innovation ecosystem through its [German Israeli Network of Startups & Mittelstand \(GINSUM\)](#) since 2020.

The Israel Solidarity Forum of the German Economy now strives to **inform** about Israel's current economic situation, **express solidarity**, and highlight **ways for support**.

- 09:00 Welcome and Introduction**  
Carsten Ovens, CEO, ELNET (Germany/Austria/Switzerland)
- 09:05 Political Keynote**  
Nir Barkat, Minister of Economy and Industry, Israel
- 09:25 Business Keynotes**  
Dr. Ron Tomer, President, Manufacturers' Association of Israel (MAI)  
Dr. Simone Peter, President, German Renewable Energy Federation (BEE)
- 09:35 No Matter What – Israeli Resilience (powered by Start-Up Nation Central)**  
Avi Hasson, CEO, Start-Up Nation Central  
Adi Ofek, CEO, Mercedes Benz Research and Development Tel Aviv
- 10:05 Stronger Together – Collaboration between Germany and Israel**  
Ulf Kämpfer, Mayor of Kiel, President, German Association of Local Public Utilities (VKU)  
Jürgen Mindel, Managing Director, German Association of the Automotive Industry (VDA)  
Shlomi Kofman, VP & Head of International Collaborations Division, Innovation Authority  
Danielle Abraham, Executive Director, Volcani International Partnerships  
Lirone Glikman, CEO, The Human Factor
- 10:30 Concluding Remarks**  
Dr. Emmanuel Navon, CEO, ELNET (Israel)
- 10:35 End**

