



A MANIFESTO FOR ISRAEL:

On the 70th anniversary of the Israeli Declaration of Independence, proclaimed on 14 May 1948 by David Ben-Gurion, we would like to draw attention to the value, the role and the central importance of the State of Israel both in the Euro-Mediterranean and International scenes, committing ourselves to positively act for Israel: **BECAUSE ISRAEL IS PART OF US.**

1 AGAINST DELEGITIMIZATION

We underline the necessity of fighting against the de-legitimization phenomena of both the State of Israel and its history, with due regard for the political coherence of the process that resulted in its foundation and international recognition.

2 ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST

We recognize the State of Israel as the expression of a society based on knowledge, on the principles of democracy and freedom. We recall the duty of the political institutions – of Italy above all – to partake in a constructive manner in international processes aimed at reaching geopolitical stability while being founded on law and on political models guided by the integral development of individuals, in the strong affirmation of Israel's right to exist.

3 FIGHTING ANTI-ZIONISM AND ANTI-SEMITISM

We underline the severity of political, media and cultural attempts at legitimizing anti-Semitic behaviours and the unsustainable danger arising from subsequent anti-Semitic drifts, which constantly feed into the vulnerability of Jewish communities on an international level. Anti-Zionism today is more and more the pretense under which present-day anti-Semitism hides.

4 THE ONLY LIBERAL DEMOCRACY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

We underline the qualities, unique in the Middle East scenario, which are the expression of Israel's social and political system. A parliamentary democracy representing a secular and pluralistic society, founded on freedom of expression and information, on economic freedoms and free market, as well as on democratic dialectic.

5 PROPER FORMATION AND INFORMATION

We appeal to the responsibility of Italian and European educational institutions and news agencies, so that they favor the acquisition of critical tools of evaluation of the Middle East political and geopolitical scene, based on the historical analysis, rather than on the approximations of the biased rhetoric and ideological propaganda. We strive in this regard to promote accurate information and education on Israel.

6 JERUSALEM, CAPITAL OF ISRAEL

We vigorously maintain the full recognition of the City of Jerusalem as capital of Israel, on the basis of both historical and cultural reasons, which inspired its function and legitimized its role. Jerusalem will be the capital city for every community currently living in the State of Israel, in full accordance with its historical and political vocation: pluralistic, intercultural and multi-religious.

7 SECURITY AND WAR ON TERROR

We hope in and are committed to the promotion of a closer cooperation between Europe, Italy and Israel in the fields of security and defense, fully understanding Israel's strategic role and its expertise as an outpost in the fight against international terrorism.

8 FOR A BETTER ECONOMIC COOPERATION

We underline the pivotal role of Israel's economy and industry for the economic – and mostly innovative – development of the entire Euro-Mediterranean area, and we oppose all form of rejection of economic and industrial cooperation with Israeli actors coming from European institutions and companies, by scrutinizing and denouncing such discriminatory phenomena. In this regard, we commit to support commercial, projectual and intellectual exchanges in the fields of economics and industry, in order to promote economic growth and development of our countries together.

9 AGAINST BOYCOTTING – BDS

We oppose the Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions movement as well as the reasons behind its foundation, reclaiming the role and responsibility of a competent and informed international diplomacy. Discriminatory behaviours against the State of Israel, its culture, its politics and its economy help to fuel episodes of ideological resurgences and antidemocratic populism.

10 FOR GREATER SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL COOPERATION

We oppose boycott actions against the academic system of Israel, underlining the scientific quality and the industriousness of Israel's Universities and research centers, along with the international, multiethnic and multicultural character of Israel's Academies as an essential tool in a difficult inclusion and social coexistence process. We strive for a better cooperation in those fields.

We also call upon those actors involved in academic boycott actions to be coherent and responsible facing the choices they made, all too often associated with populism and useless discrimination, urging them to pursue scientific debate and constructive dialogue.

We wish for a stronger international cooperation in granting an increasingly significant role to cultural diplomacy in the Middle East and Mediterranean area, averting the risk and correcting instances of instrumentalization of supranational and intergovernmental organizations.

DEFENDING JUDAISM AND OUR COMMON ROOTS: OUR COMMITMENTS

We highlight the historical responsibility of Italy towards safeguarding Jewish communities and promoting Jewish culture at an international level. We would also like to draw the attention of international politics to the historical solidarity of the cooperation between Italy and the Jewish People in building a shared Mediterranean of pluralism, knowledge, law and human development in light of our common roots.

By subscribing to the present cultural Manifesto one expresses the full and complete adherence to the principles and values hereby affirmed and pledges, in accordance to his or her means, to promote their implementation in every aspect of our society.

