

November 23, 2009

Bilateral Agreement for cooperation in the field of telecommunications signed between France and Israel

Minister of Communications Moshe Kahalon met French Minister of Industry, Mr. Christian Estrosi, who visited Israel this week heading a large delegation composed of parliament and civil service representatives as well as business delegates from 40 telecom companies.

The visit was held in light of a French-Israeli conference on ICT innovation.

The bilateral cooperation agreement includes provisions on cooperation in international organizations; mutual exchange of regulatory information and advice; mutual exchange of information and advice regarding spectrum management; mutual satellite coordination; promoting R&D cooperation; promoting postal cooperation; and examining ways to cooperate vis-à-vis third-party countries. The agreement includes a proposal to hold annual meetings between the two parties, during which, ways of implementing the agreement will be reviewed.

Minister Kahalon said he welcomes the entry of more and more French investors to the Israeli telecom market – such as Mr. Patrick Darhi, who has acquired Hot. The Minister also introduced to his colleague the model of reform in the postal bank, turning the bank into a social bank. Minister Estrosi has shown much interest in this idea, and said that France also has a social bank that gives credit to customers who cannot get credit from the commercial banks. Minister Estrosi asked his staff to study the details of the reform proposed by Minister Kahalon.

Minister Kahalon requested of Minister Estrosi to ask French mobile operators to modify roaming tariff arrangements with Israeli mobile operators, so that Israelis visiting France can pay lower roaming tariffs compared to the very high prices paid today by Israelis going to Europe.

Minister Estrosi replied he would act vis-à-vis European Commission and French mobile operators on this issue.

Dr. Yechiel Shabi
Spokesman
+972-50-6236001