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Federal Department of Finance FDF



STATE OF ISRAEL  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

## Joint Press Release

Date: 16.09.2018

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### **Switzerland and Israel continue their cooperation in financial matters**

**The Head of the Federal Department of Finance (FDF) of the Swiss Confederation, Mr Ueli Maurer, and the Minister of Finance of the State of Israel, Mr Moshe Kahlon, met on 16 September 2018 in Jerusalem to discuss various financial and fiscal issues of common interest. Their meeting was preceded on the same day by the second Swiss-Israel Financial Dialogue, where both sides identified areas of joint interest and fostered a commitment for further collaboration across a number of issues, including market access and fintech.**

Federal Councillor Ueli Maurer led a delegation, which included representatives of the Swiss authorities as well as senior representatives from the banking sector and Fintech sector, who actively participated in the financial dialogue and met with the Israeli Minister of Finance.

Today's discussions between the two Finance ministers are a follow-up to their meeting on 4 September 2017 in Tel Aviv. On that occasion, Mr Maurer and Mr Kahlon signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to promote cooperation in financial services and to this end to establish a regular financial dialogue between their respective ministries. The Finance ministers subsequently met on 17 April 2018 in Zurich and reiterated their commitment to deepen their cooperation in financial matters.

On 16 September 2018, the State Secretary for International Financial Matters, Mr Jörg Gasser, and the Deputy Minister of Finance, Mr Yitzhak Cohen, met for a further round of the financial dialogue launched last year. The two delegations exchanged views on issues related to market access with respect to the provision of cross-border financial services. Fintech regulation and cryptocurrency as well as combating money laundering and terrorist financing were also among the topics of discussion.

As part of the visit, the Swiss delegation attended a workshop organized by the Embassy which gave them an overview of the Israeli blockchain sector. Further, an event dedicated to cyber security focused on new threats as well as possible solutions currently being developed in relation to cyber threats in the field of blockchain technologies. Both events enabled the parties to foster a dialogue regarding potential collaboration between the Swiss and the Israeli

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ecosystems.

*This is a joint press release with identical English wording.*

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