

# Prime Minister Babiš Negotiates with Israel's premier, Netanyahu, on Cooperation in Research

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**On 19 February 2019, Czech Prime Minister, Andrej Babiš met Israel's premier, Benjamin Netanyahu. Both premiers praised the excellent relations between the two countries and supported further development of their collaboration in the field of science and research.**

The leaders of government of the Czech Republic and Israel talked about the future of mutual cooperation and continuing consultation between the governments. Together they expressed their desire to intensify mutual specialist assistance in areas where the interests of both countries lie. During this year, the Czech Premier would like to receive his Israeli counterpart in Prague to ensure that negotiations continue.

*“Israel is our strategic partner in the region. And what is most important is that we have agreed that we shall continue in inter-governmental cooperation known as G2G. This means that the Prime Minister promised to come to Prague,”* said the Czech Premier.



*Press conference of 19 February 2019 with Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, and Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, Andrej Babiš.*

The main topics of the meeting included water management, applications of medical cannabis, questions concerning cyber security and research and development. *“We want to cooperate. Water is a strategic raw material for us. Israel has technologies facilitating economical use of water. From their point of view, waste management innovations may be interesting. And what is very important, at least for me, is cooperation in the area of cannabis for medical purposes. Israel recently adopted new legislation in this regard. They are leaders in this area nowadays and Premier Netanyahu promised me that he would send two or three*

*doctors to the conference,*” the Czech Premier commented regarding the topics discussed with his Israeli counterpart.

During the programme, Andrej Babiš had the opportunity to try out new technologies used in its products by Mobileye. Development of an autonomous driving system is of fundamental importance for this start-up firm. The Czech Premier rode in a car with such a system. *“Although there was a driver sitting at the wheel, he did not drive the car. It is a super-technology. Probably one of the best in the world,”* Premier Babiš proclaimed. Israeli experts also demonstrated a special video camera to their Czech guest which can help people with impaired vision identify objects in front of them.

On the first day of his visit to Israel, at an informal lunch Premier Babiš also met with the premier of Slovakia, Peter Pellegrini and of Hungary, Viktor Orbán, and also visited the Czech House in Jerusalem which opened its doors to Czech tourists and entrepreneurs at the end of November. Andrej Babiš also visited the exhibition of Czech glass at the Czech House. The day’s schedule ended with a working dinner with representatives from the banking sector, energy industry, cybernetic security, the arms industry and representatives of Škoda Auto.

Source: Office of the Government of the Czech Republic press release | 19. 2. 2019