



Amir Peretz - Chairman
Eran Hermoni - Secretary General
Hilik Bar - International Secretary
Israeli Labor Party

Brussels, 13 May 2020

Dear Comrades,

In this time of coronavirus pandemic, I hope you and your family are well. The COVID-19 virus has hit the whole world hard, Israelis and Palestinians included. We were happy to see the cooperation you showed to face this pandemic and we express our solidarity with you in this difficult time.

I am writing to you concerning the coalition agreement signed by Benjamin Netanyahu for the Likud and Benny Gantz for Kahol Lavan. Now that the Knesset approved the amendments to the laws in order to allow the fulfilment of the agreement, and the High Court allowed Mr. Netanyahu to form a government, we suppose that the government will be set up.

We understand that the decision to form a unity government is due to the need to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic in the best way.

But we are very concerned by the coalition agreement itself, which includes annexation of parts of the occupied West Bank. We think that this move will damage forever the two-states solution, as will the Trump administration's plan for the region. It is going against the fundamental principles of international law and UN resolutions on the Middle East peace process.

We saw as well that you, as economy Minister, and Itzik Shmuli taking the welfare portfolio, will be part of the government.

All PES members parties in the EU are committed to support the two-states solution and the Middle east peace process, as stated in UN resolutions. We share the vision of two secure and viable states coexisting in peace: Israel and Palestine. We continue to believe in the need for a political solution to the conflict, based on international law and the relevant UN resolutions. We have at heart the security of Israel in the framework of a peaceful solution.

We are wondering how the Labour party sees the current situation and how you see the coalition agreement. We would be happy to have your views in order to better understand your decision to participate to this government and the situation in Israel in general and the prospects for peace.

Looking forward to hearing from you and wish you the best.

Sincerely,

Sergei Stanishev
PES President



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Party of European Socialists
10-12 Rue Guimard
B-1040 Brussels
Belgium