



**Ministry of Economy and Industry**  
Director General

2023-0046-181

October 12<sup>th</sup> 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

On Saturday morning, during a Jewish holiday, Hamas, a fundamentalist terrorist organization, has launched brutal surprise attacks on Israel targeting innocent Israeli civilians. Hamas' ruthless assaults resulted in over 1200 fatalities, more than 3000 injuries, and over 200 abductees, including women, children, and the elderly, as of today. Many foreign nationals are also among the victims. In response, on October 8, 2023, the Government of Israel formally declared war against Hamas, with the goal of protecting its population by targeting terror organizations in the Gaza Strip, neutralizing weapons arsenals, and dismantling terror infrastructure. This effort is essential for restoring peace and safety to the citizens of Israel and the broader region.

The world stands by Israel, with many Western democracies, including US President Joe Biden, expressing their horror at the brutality of Hamas' attack, and supporting Israel's right to defend itself.

In light of these recent developments, I would like to update you regarding the status of Israeli business and economic activities.

While the security situation naturally has some impact on our economy, Israel has consistently demonstrated remarkable resilience in the face of security-related challenges. Our robust economy continues to operate with financial activities proceeding without interruption.

Both the Ministry of Economy and Industry and the Ministry of Finance are actively supporting businesses to overcome these challenges, ensuring our economy's resilience, while securing the workforce's safety. Government authorities have also ensured the uninterrupted flow of merchandise, and many local and foreign shipping and airline companies are maintaining regular schedules. With strong macroeconomic fundamentals, effective regulations, and a culture of innovation, our economy will overcome this murderous terrorist attack.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Economic and Commercial Mission at the Embassy of Israel in your region. On behalf of the Ministry of Economy and Industry, I would like to thank you for your support and understanding during this period, and I look forward to continuing and expanding our cooperation in the months and years to come.

Sincerely,

**Amnon Merhav**  
Director General