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## WITTENBERG DECLARATION FOR THE 3<sup>rd</sup> FORUM OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION


Building on the positive and encouraging outcomes of the first and second Jordanian-Israeli Forums on Economic Cooperation, held in Wittenberg in 2003 and 2004, Jordanian and Israeli tourism professionals have convened in Wittenberg in July 2005, to examine and discuss the topic of Jordanian-Israeli Tourism. The Amman Center for Peace and Development, The Peres Center for Peace, and The Wittenberg Center for Global Ethics have continued their cooperation in order to keep up the momentum and enhance the progress that has been achieved so far. This process has been supported by DaimlerChrysler, whose representatives actively participated in the meetings and accompany the working process.

The philosophy underlying these meetings draws on an economic approach to conflict resolution, based on the idea that mutually beneficial trade and business relations can, and will, promote stability and peace. There is great potential for increased cooperation in the field of tourism, with the expectation that such cooperative initiatives have the power to contribute to economic growth and employment levels in both countries as well as promote Jordanian-Israeli economic relations.


After four days of lively and fruitful discussions, the delegations from Israel and Jordan have reached a consensus, and call upon their respective governments to encourage stronger economic relations between the two countries, particularly in regards to tourism. The participants have identified several pressing issues that require the involvement of officials at the highest levels.

Both sides agree to strengthen tourism by encouraging Jordanian and Israeli tourism professionals to expand communication, cooperation, and joint ventures. To that end, they announce their intention to actively promote the **opening of border crossings** and the facilitation of **visa processes**. Whilst they recognize the essential need for security safeguards and verifications, border crossings and visa-issuing processes should be simplified in order to enhance Jordanian-Israeli and international tourism to the region. In addition, **joint marketing efforts and programs** as well as **familiarization trips and continued meetings between tourism professionals** of the two countries are necessary elements of effective cooperation.


We – representatives of private sector businesses and leading organizations in the field of tourism – believe that these challenges must be addressed, in order to take the utmost advantage of the currently favorable climate for tourism. In the name of our common national interests, we call upon the Jordanian and Israeli authorities to act immediately, thus serving as a catalyst to improve Jordanian-Israeli relations in the field of tourism and beyond.



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