

## **Government: Mission to Israel and the Palestinian territories**

Saturday, June 2, 2012. Tomorrow Flemish Minister-President Kris Peeters will leave on a mission to Israel and the Palestinian territories from Sunday, June 3rd to Tuesday 5 June. During the mission he will visit Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Ramallah.

The mission of Prime Minister Kris Peeters is of a dual nature, political and academic, where some economic program components are processed. The Prime Minister will lead a delegation where both academics and business leaders are represented.

In the context of 'academic diplomacy', Flanders Knowledge Area, includes a state visit to Israel's Weizmann Institute of Science, and a meeting with the Palestinian rectors.

The opening of the Dossin barracks in Mechelen (*Memorial Museum and Documentation Centre of the Holocaust and Human Rights*), and the plenary conference of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, organized by Flanders end of June, will also be on the agenda. In this framework he will be among others visiting the Yad Vashem Museum.

During his mission Minister-President Kris Peeters will also have a meeting with Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Ayalon, and Minister of Industry, Trade and Employment Simhon, to discuss the New Industrial Policy on the agenda. Moreover, the potential of engaging the Flemish companies regarding gas exploration at the Israeli coast will also be discussed with the Israeli Minister of Energy and Water Landau.

Minister-President Kris Peeters will also have a meeting with Palestinian Prime Minister Fayyad and the Palestinian Foreign Minister, Al-Maliki.

Flanders supports UNRWA, the 'United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East'. In this context, Prime Minister Peeters also will visit an UNRWA project in the Palestinian territories, and will also visit the new city of Rawabi which is currently under construction, to explore potential opportunities for Flemish entrepreneurs to get involved in this project.

Luc De Serrano, spokesman for Prime Minister Peeters.