

Members of the Knesset, the Palestinian Legislative Council and the Bundestag discuss Annapolis.

On the occasion of a visit by a six-strong Bundestag delegation, the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung offices in Israel and the Palestinian territories organized a round table on April 2,



2008 with representatives from the Bundestag, the Knesset and the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC). The mere fact that on this occasion Palestinian legislators held discussions with Israeli ones must be viewed as a success: it was the first meeting of this kind for a year.

A meeting took place at the offices of FES Jerusalem of the first Parliamentary Executive Director Thomas Oppermann, SPD Party Executive member Kerstin Griese, and Bundestag members Christian Lange, Siegmund Ehrmann, Dr. Carola Reimann, and Andreas Weigel with Deputy Knesset Speaker Colette Avital (Labor), MK Avshalom Vilan (Meretz), and Fatah PLC members Jihad Abu Zneid and Dr. Bernhard Sabella.

A lively atmosphere prevailed as the representatives discussed the Annapolis process, the settlements problem, and the state of the various political parties. It became clear that the Israeli and Palestinian legislators were confronted with very different problems in their own circles, and as a result frequently lost sight of the other side to the conflict. In order to ensure that there would be further talks, a follow-up meeting in a more personal setting between Knesset member Colette Avital and PLC representative Jihad Abu Zneid was proposed through the intermediary of Bundestag member Kerstin Griese.