

Sharing a dream?

If the president of the United States had been elected in Israel, John McCain would have clearly won. In a representative survey of the Institute Teleseker 46,6 percent of the interviewees would have voted for McCain, whereas only 34 percent would have chosen today's president Barack Obama . And it seems that this Israeli election result is representative for the current foreign politics of the United States. Whereas previous presidential periods clearly underlined a positioning on the Israeli side, Obama's politics do not seem to follow this tradition. Especially Obama's solutions for the Gaza conflict do not seem to be pro Israel. How should we take off Israeli troops out of Gaza, when the Hamas will not stop bombing our country? How could we change the situation in a peaceful way, when the Hamas still instigates the residents of Gaza? And how could Gaza be lead by a so called party, which not even cares about the health of their people? How can the United States admit that the Hamas hides in hospitals and schools during war? Israel is since its beginning in the focus of international relations. Since the first minutes America recognized Israel as a state. Israel always fought side on side with America for a more peaceful world, even previously to September, 11<sup>th</sup>.

But how can a friend become a foe? Which relationship between Israel and the US will develop within the next couple of years? Taking the upcoming conference of the United Nations in Konstanz, which especially focuses on the Middle Eastern Conflict, as an example for future politics, the United States was not even able to formulate a clear position paper. In contrary, no statement regarding the Israel-Palestine conflict was given at all. How can we rely on a country, we formerly called a friend and which is now not able to take a clear position? Although the Haaretz just quoted our Prime Minister Netanyahu saying "I've met President Obama, I respect him and I look forward to seeing him in Washington in a couple of weeks. We plan to continue our common quest for prosperity and for peace", the missing statement of US voices during the preparations for the UN conference in Konstanz are rather disappointing. Surely, we still want to continue with our long lasting relationship, and we also want to live in peace with the Arab world, but if it comes to the worst, we have to know who our friend and who our foe is. Therefore we have to come to precise terms with the United States. Regarding Konstanz, I hope for a fruitful basis, on which our countries can work together. But to start such a process, we need clear decisions.

Especially the resistance of nuclear power in Iran Netanyahu sees as a shared political principle of Israel and the United States. This starting point for further discussions could also touch upon a peace process in the Middle East. Actually, the unpleasant case of Iran producing nuclear weapons could unite the Israeli with the Arab world. Our Prime Minister states: "There is something happening today in the Middle East, and I can say that for the first time in my lifetime I believe that Arabs and

Jews see the common danger. This wasn't always the case." Hopefully Konstanz will also come about some ideas to solve the danger of Iran's nuclear power. As Obama and Netanyahu at least in this point share common ideas, I hope that these upcoming discussions will converge us again. Until then, I am hoping for the USA taking a clear position. Konstanz will show in how far our countries can still rely on each other.