

University of Haifa

The Senate of the University of Haifa, by virtue of the authority vested in it by the constitution of the University and in accordance with the recommendations of the President and the Executive Committee

hereby confers upon

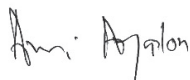
Christian Estrosi

the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy, Honoris Causa

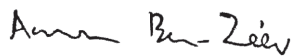
in recognition of his deep and sincere friendship with the State of Israel; for his commitment to the fight against anti-Semitism and anti-Israel activity; for his great contribution to strengthening ties between Israel and France in the fields of finance, politics and health; for his many efforts to encourage French business investments in Israel; for his contribution to strengthening coexistence between Israel and its neighbors by means of economic initiatives; and for his contribution to French government involvement in the peace process between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

Conferred in Haifa, Israel
28 Iyar 5771/June 1, 2011



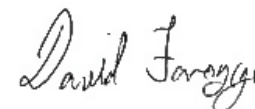
Ami Ayalon

Chairman of the Executive Committee



Prof. Aaron Ben-Ze'ev

President



Prof. David Faraggi

Rector

CHRISTIAN ESTROSI

Born in 1955 in Nice, France, he has been mayor of Nice since 2008. As the only child to an Italian immigrant, Christian Estrosi dreamed of becoming a politician from early childhood. Christian Estrosi is an example of a public figure whose achievements are reached due to personal skills. Before entering politics, he was a professional sportsman. He was French champion in motorcycle racing in 1975, 1976, 1977 and 1979.

He took his first steps in French politics in the 1980s. In 1983 he was elected to the Municipality of Nice and served as senior representative for the administration of sports. In 1985, he was elected to serve on the General Council of Alpes-Maritimes, where he was the youngest member of the council. In 1988 he was elected member of the National Assembly of France and in 1992 he was elected First Vice President of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur regional council. He was reelected to the French Parliament in 1993 and 1997; in 2001 he was elected to serve as General Councilor of the Saint-Etienne-de-Tinée region. Again reelected to Parliament in 2002, he was then appointed Chairman of the Committee for Internal Security. In 2003 he was appointed President of the General Council of Alpes-Maritimes. In June 2005 Estrosi joined Dominique de Villepin's government as Minister of Land Management, alongside Minister of the Interior, Nicolas Sarkozy. As President of France, in 2007 Sarkozy appointed Estrosi Secretary of State for Overseas French Departments. From June 2009 to November 2010 he served as France's Minister for Industry. In 2008, Estrosi was elected Mayor of Nice.

Christian Estrosi's support of Israel began early in his career as legislator, when he frequently expressed his friendship with the State. In 2003, as President of the General Council of Alpes-Maritimes, he organized a memorial journey to Auschwitz concentration camp for a religiously diverse group of 3,000 French students. He has been active in encouraging French investments in Israel, primarily in the fields of communications, biotechnology and water. During a visit to Israel in 2006 he signed scientific, technological and cultural collaboration agreements between French and Israeli institutions.

Christian Estrosi, who maintains warm ties with the Jewish community of Nice, has devoted great efforts to the fight against anti-Semitism and anti-Israel activity. He strongly condemned Palestinian terror attacks on Israel and has repeatedly expressed concern over Iran's escalating military capability and its attempts at nuclear development.

During his 2009 visit to Israel, as Minister for Industry and Mayor of Nice, he signed a number of agreements for collaboration in the field of communications with Israel's Minister of Communications, Moshe Kahlon. He met with President of Israel, Shimon Peres, expressing willingness to support the establishment of an industrial project in Bethlehem. His deep and sincere friendship with Israel was further expressed following that visit, when he declared that Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East and that it is France's obligation to support the country while opposing any threat to its security or existence.

As President of the EUROMED Network - the Euro-Mediterranean Cities Network, Estrosi has been instrumental in welcoming Haifa as the only Israeli city, so far, in this international network since 2010.