

CHAIRMAN's MESSAGE

"How is this war different from all other wars?"

Has one ever seen a country victim of daily bombings having an economy in full health (for the moment), with a euphoric Tel Aviv Stock Exchange whatever the turmoil of other places around the world? With a rebound in investments? With a shekel at its highest against the dollar, and currency reserves exceeding 200 billion \$? The GDP growth is still expected to exceed 4% in 2026 vs 3% last year, although the war will of course impact the budget, and make the Debt-to-GDP ratio probably rise close to 70%. However, the worries related to the war are largely balanced by the hopes for a more smiling future.

The war has of course a cost, roughly estimated at 400 million \$ per day, a figure that includes military expenses, especially the cost of anti-missile defense systems costing millions each, and that of the recall under the flags of 100,000 reservists. The country continues to function despite everything, and both industry and commerce are holding up even if slowed, while small businesses and SMEs are suffering more than average. The still closed schools also weigh on the available workforce.

But "when the building is doing well, everything is doing well": the construction continues imperturbably in an impressive way. And while air transport suffers from the situation, Israeli ports are operating at full capacity, suggesting what could become of IMEC (India Middle-East Europe Corridor). The Israeli export which is BtoB rather than BtoC is in good shape, with medical and especially Hi-Tech reaching peaks. The defense industry is literally crumbling under orders, and Israel's success at the ADEX Defense Exhibition of Seoul in October helps forget the mistreatments at EuroSatory and Le Bourget.

"How is this war different from all other wars?" could we say on this Pesach eve. It is firstly the uncertainty about the duration of the war: 2 weeks like last June? several months according to what Trump and Netanyahu suggest? No one really knows... But the major disparity concerns the day after: for the first time in decades, the Israelis foresee the possibility of a future from which not only would the Iranian Islamist enemy be absent, but where in a peaceful Middle-East one would find a coalition of all Arab countries of the Gulf with whom Israel would live in good understanding in expanded Abraham's Accords.

What about Israel-France Chamber of Commerce and Industry in all that? CCIIF keeps its back round, maintains constant contact with its members, expands its partnerships and works quietly to prepare tomorrow. Challenging but exhilarating.

Julien Roitman

COMING CCIIF EVENTS

- **April 14th, 2026 – CCIIF 2026 Trophies – Tel Aviv - BY INVITATION ONLY**



L'ORÉAL
ISRAEL



CYRUS
HEREZ
ISRAËL

Club Med

Awarded under the High Patronage of His Excellency the Ambassador of France and in his presence, CCIIF 2026 Trophies had to be postponed several weeks due to the war. They come to recognize and honor Israeli companies or Israeli subsidiaries of international groups who have excelled in their business with France during Year 2025 in spite of a very challenging environment. 2026 Trophies will be awarded to L'Oréal Israel, Carrefour Israel, Cyrus Herez Israel and Club Med ISR.

- **April 15th, 2026 – Second CCIIF Afterwork – Tel Aviv**

Every month on the 3rd Wednesday at 18:30 at Institut Français CCIIF welcomes its members for a Get-together Afterwork. While chatting around refreshments, we are happy to have each time several of our members to present their activity to the rest of the team for information and, why not, for business...

ENTRANCE FEE : 100 NIS – FREE FOR CCIIF MEMBERS



- **June 17th – June 20th, 2026 – VIVATECH – PARIS**

VIVA 17-20 JUNE
2026 / PARIS
TECHNOLOGY

VivaTech accelerates innovation by connecting startups, tech leaders, major companies, and investors responding to our world's biggest challenges. Each year, VivaTech creates Europe's biggest startup and tech event, exploring the most disruptive topics in tech with world-premiere demos, launches, and conferences. This is where business meets innovation. Join CCIIF and Yossi Dan for the 10th edition of VivaTech, June 17- 20, 2026 <https://vivatechnology.com/get-your-pass>

RECENT CCIIF EVENTS

- **February 18th, 2026 – First CCIIF Afterwork – Institut Français Tel Aviv**

It was a pleasure to host the first CCIIF After-Work event at the Institut Français of Tel Aviv on February 18th. This inaugural session was a great success and provided a valuable opportunity for CCIIF members to meet, exchange, and strengthen connections within our community. The evening allowed participants to better understand each other's activities and explore potential collaborations.

We also had the privilege of hearing from Claude Nahon, CEO of Altavia Israel, and Marc Servies, Counselor to the Ambassador and Director of the Institut Français, who shared insightful perspectives. Next CCIIF Afterwork that will take place on April 15th.



CCIIF MEMBER OF THE MONTH – IRENE FEDER



On February 26th at the Region Hall of Lille was officially inaugurated by CCIIF Member Irene Feder the *CCFI Hauts-de-France*, the North Branch of France-Israel Chamber of Commerce, under the honorary patronage of the Region President Xavier Bertrand and in presence of the Vice-President Antoine Sillani, of CCFI President Henri Cukierman, of the President of Israel Federation of Bi-National Chambers of Commerce Dan Catarivas. An evening that will remain a strong and inspiring moment for all of guests present, a moment of encounters, energy, and above all, light. At a time when the global economic environment is facing uncertainties, they wanted to reaffirm a simple conviction: when talents meet, new lights are ignited.

“Israel is recognized for its capacity for innovation, its resilience, and its entrepreneurial spirit. Hauts-de-France Region is a land of industry, commitment, and international openness, and the meeting of these two dynamics can create an exceptional force. This inauguration marks the starting point of a dynamic we want to make strong and concrete. Our objective is clear: build lasting economic bridges between our two territories, several initiatives being already prepared for 2026.” Said Irene, thanking all those who had made this evening possible.

ECONOMIC & GENERAL NEWS

1. First New Pancreatic Cancer Treatment in 30 Years Comes From Israel

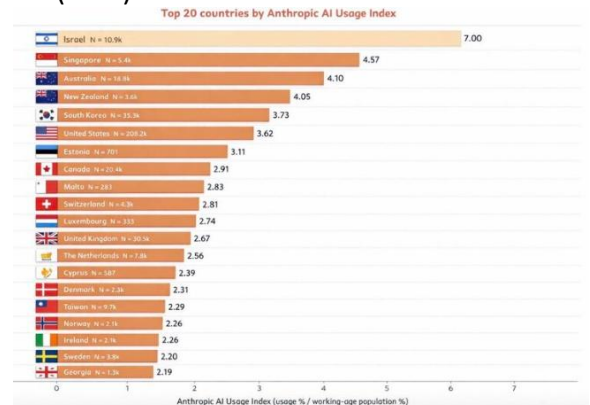
Pancreatic cancer is one of the most difficult diagnoses, affecting about 67,000 people each year in the US. Around 20,000 cases are classified as locally advanced, meaning the tumor has grown but has not yet spread to distant organs. The overall five-year survival rate is about 13%. Recently, the FDA approved a new wearable medical device called Optune Pax, developed by the Israeli-founded company Novocure, marking the first new approved treatment for locally advanced pancreatic cancer in decades. The disease remains especially challenging because it usually shows few early symptoms and there is no simple screening test. Research has been slow partly because the tumor’s biological environment makes many therapies ineffective.

Source: <https://sharingfromisrael.substack.com/p/novocure-optune-pax-pancreatic-cancer-israel-fda-approval>

2. Israel #1 country in AI usage worldwide

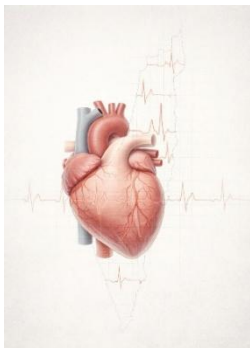
Not the US, not China. Israel is #1. The Anthropic AI Usage Index confirms it: with a score of 7.00, it far surpasses #2 Singapore (4.57) and #3 Australia (4.10).

The United States ranks 6th at 3.62. This is no coincidence. It reflects decades of investment in elite tech talent, advanced military R&D, and a culture that turns problems into startups. When AI is used at this intensity, the next unicorns are already being built. The founders using AI today are the CEOs of tomorrow. While others are still debating AI adoption, Israel is already living it. Investing in its AI ecosystem means backing the companies that will shape the next decade.



Source: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7430582986862948352/>

3. An Israeli Startup Just Made Heart Disease Detection Look Easy



AccuLine, an Israeli startup based in Petah Tikva, developed CORA, a heart disease detection system. In a trial with 305 patients across 7 Israeli centers, compared to coronary angiography (the gold standard), CORA achieved 94% sensitivity and 99% negative predictive value, making it highly reliable at ruling out artery blockages. The test takes 4 minutes, requires no needles, radiation, or physical effort, and uses ECG-like electrodes. Its AI analyzes cardiac signals, oxygen levels, and breathing patterns. A larger 2,000-patient trial across 20 U.S. centers is planned for FDA approval. Investors include Mayo Clinic, Maccabi, Google's AI Fund, and the Israel Innovation Authority. Goal: enable routine screening in regular doctor's offices.

Source: <https://sharingfromisrael.substack.com/p/israeli-startup-acculine-heart-disease-detection-cora>

4. New unicorn in Paris: Advanced Machine Intelligence, a startup founded by Yann LeCun

Paris is welcoming a new unicorn. Advanced Machine Intelligence (AMI), the startup founded by French researcher Yann LeCun, has raised \$1.03 billion, giving the company a pre-money valuation of \$3.5 billion—one of the largest seed funding rounds ever. The startup will focus on developing “world models,” an approach aimed at going beyond large language models such as ChatGPT and Claude by building AI systems capable of understanding and modeling the physical world.



Source: <https://israelvalley.com/2026/03/10/tel-aviv-nen-revient-pas-paris-accueille-une-nouvelle-licorne-advanced-machine-intelligence-ami-start-up-de-yann-lecun/>

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