Weekly Commercial Media Report for the period 03-10 January 2025

A.Israel-Internal

Strike shuts Ashdod Port

During Sunday morning, the workers committee at the Port of Ashdod, which is affiliated with the Histadrut (General Federation of Labor in Israel), announced "organizational measures" which the port's management has described as "a wildcat strike." The committee says that that reason for the strike is that preference is being given to temporary workers in work shifts at the expense of veteran employees.

https://en.globes.co.il/en/article-strike-shuts-ashdod-port-1001498558

BoI keeps rate unchanged, raises growth forecast

The Bank of Israel Monetary Committee has announced that it has kept the interest rate unchanged at 4.5%, as expected. This is the eighth successive time that the Bank of Israel has left the interest rate unchanged, after cutting it from 4.75% in January 2024.At the same time the Bank of Israel research department issued a revised forecast on growth. The research department GDP sees 0.6% growth in 2024 and 4% (up from 3.8%) in 2025, slightly higher than the previous forecast in October 2024. The research department sees GDP to growth of 4.5% in 2026.

https://en.globes.co.il/en/article-bank-of-israel-keeps-rate-unchanged-raises-growth-forecast-1001498668

Israel rises in world passport strength rankings

Israel's passport has been ranked 19th in Henley and Partners 2025 global ranking of powerful passports. Israel's passport allows travelers to enter 170 countries without a visa. In top place is Singapore, whose passport holders can enter 195 countries without a visa and in second place is Japan whose passport holders can enter 193 countries without a visa.

https://en.globes.co.il/en/article-israel-rises-in-world-passport-strength-rankings-1001498986

Israel to cut travelers' flight cancellation compensation to woo back foreign airlines

Israeli lawmakers have agreed to make legal changes to canceled flight compensation rights for air passengers to help ease the financial costs of disruptions during the war period and help bring back foreign airlines to the country. The approval comes after the Finance Ministry announced a plan to grant a safety net for airlines operating flights to North America.

https://www.timesofisrael.com/knesset-panel-passes-flight-compensation-changes-to-bring-back-foreign-airlines/

Tempo pressed — and the Knesset lifted the ban on mergers between food suppliers

Large food suppliers will be able to merge with medium and large suppliers — this is according to a meeting of the Knesset's Economics Committee held this morning (Wednesday) in the Knesset. The discussion dealt with Economy Minister Nir Barkat's request to extend the ban on mergers — but the committee's chairman, MK David Bitan (Likud), refused to extend the ban. The amendment prohibited mergers between a large supplier — one whose sales turnover in 2021 was more than NIS 307 million — and a medium-sized and large supplier, one whose sales turnover in 2021 was more than NIS 30 million. The ban was set as a temporary provision that will be in effect until December 31, 2024

https://www.themarker.com/consumer/2025-01-08/ty-article/00000194-4587-ded4-a3f5-579744550000

Levin, Sa'ar present judicial overhaul compromise

Minister of Justice Yariv Levin and Minister of Foreign Affairs Gideon Sa'ar are promoting a new plan for change in the composition of the Judicial Selection Committee. Under the plan, the committee will comprise three members of the governing coalition (ministers and members of Knesset), a member of the opposition, three judges, and two lawyers. This composition is the same as the current one, except that instead of the two lawyers being representatives of the Israel Bar Association, one will be chosen by the coalition and one by the opposition. The lawyers will have to have at least ten years experience in court litigation, and they will not be allowed to appear in court while sitting on the committee.

https://en.globes.co.il/en/article-levin-saar-present-judical-overhaul-compromise-1001499112

B.Israel-Multilateral

Biden gov't plans $8b military aid package for Israel

The administration of US President Joe Biden has informed Congress that it intends to approve a package of military aid for Israel amounting to $8 billion, Reuters reported yesterday. An aid package of this size requires approval by the House of Representatives and the Senate. It will include air-to-ground munitions and artillery shells.In the first year of the Swords of Iron war that began in October 2023, the US invested not less than $17.9 billion in military aid for Israel, according to the Costs of War project of the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University in the US. This is equivalent to 3.8% of Israel's annual GDP.

https://en.globes.co.il/en/article-biden-govt-plans-8b-military-aid-package-for-israel-1001498569

Elbit wins German army PULS artillery system tender – report

The German army is continuing its extensive defense procurements in Israel and has chosen the PULS rocket artillery systems manufactured by Elbit Systems, following close competition from an American rival, "Defense News" reports this week.According to the report, the German parliament has approved the first batch worth €65 million for procuring the artillery systems with Elbit prevailing over Lockheed Martin and Rheinmetall who had jointed together in a rival bid.

https://en.globes.co.il/en/article-elbit-wins-german-army-puls-artillery-system-tender-report-1001498752

Japanese giant Kaneka acquires EndoStream Medical in $100 million deal

The Israeli medical device startup EndoStream Medical, based in Or Akiva, has been acquired by the Japanese conglomerate Kaneka Corporation, Calcalist has learned. While the purchase amount remains undisclosed, it is estimated that the deal was made at a company valuation of $100 million. The agreement also includes potential increases in the acquisition price contingent on future sales milestones. This marks the first significant acquisition by a Japanese corporation in Israel since the outbreak of the war in October 2023.

https://www.calcalistech.com/ctechnews/article/bkdyeeaikg

European aviation giant Ryanair will return to operations in Israel in the summer

Ryanair, Europe's largest low-cost airline, plans to resume full operations from Tel Aviv this summer and hopes that Ben Gurion Airport will reopen its closed Terminal 1, company executive Eddie Wilson said in an interview on Thursday. "We have a full schedule to Tel Aviv, so we will be back there in the summer as I think most other airlines will," Wilson added.

https://www.themarker.com/wallstreet/2025-01-09/ty-article/.premium/00000194-4c27-dff1-a7bc-ddf7bc580000

C. Tenders

Company	Contact	Description	Submission Date
Israel Electric Company	Bernard Amdur +972 768634613 amdor_b@iec.co.il	**Request For Information (RFI) for DC Meters for PV, Storage and Electric Vehicle Meters** **https://ieccontent.iec.co.il//media/gezg4y3t/rfi-for-dc-meter-v2-25-11-2024_spec.pdf?_gl=1*1hoojj1*_ga*MjEwMjQ0NDY5OC4xNjkyOTQ2OTIx*_ga_YV0HLRMFQY*MTczNjQ5NzkyNS45NS4wLjE3MzY0OTc5MjUuMC4wLjA** .	13.02.2025