



MEDIA RELEASE

JERUSALEM
26th January 2009

Over 500 delegates to the 13th Plenary Assembly of the World Jewish Congress - representing Jewish organizations, bodies and over 90 national Jewish communities, meeting in Jerusalem, today elected Robert Goot the President of the ECAJ as a Vice President and member of the Executive Committee. Goot said:

“My election as a Vice President of the WJC is testament to the high regard in which the Australian Jewish community and the ECAJ is held in the international Jewish community and I am of course very proud to serve on the Executive under the Presidency of Ronald Lauder”.

Australia was represented at the Assembly by a full delegation of 10 with 4 observers. Goot said:

“We were very fortunate that the majority of our delegation comprised Australian University students in Israel, active in the work of the Australian Jewish community. These committed young adults are the future leaders of our community and they prove that when it comes to involvement of young adults in the community, Australia is at the forefront, ensuring continuity, reinvigoration, fresh ideas and leadership succession”

The Plenary Assembly adopted a resolution expressing solidarity with Israel which expressly applauded the stand taken by the Australian Government during the recent Gaza operation.

The Assembly also adopted a new constitution which was drafted by a committee which included Goot.

Keynote addresses were delivered to the first day of the Assembly by President Shimon Peres, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Defence Minister Ehud Barak and Minister for the Diaspora Yitzhak Herzog. The Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, will address the second day of the Assembly.

Issues to be discussed during the Assembly include: the global rise in anti-Semitism; Jewish-Muslim relations; Iran; and the de-legitimation of Israel as exemplified by the forthcoming Durban 11 conference.