



Report of the State Comptroller of Israel | May 2024

The Defense System

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# **Security of International Civil Aviation from and to Israel**






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## Audit Actions

 From April 2022 to June 2023, the State Comptroller conducted a systemic audit on international civil aviation security from and to Israel. The audit examined aspects of the security of international aviation departing from Ben Gurion Airport; security of Israeli aviation coming from abroad; and security of foreign and private civilian aircraft entering Israel's airspace. The audit was carried out in the Israeli Security Agency (ISA), the Security Division of El Al Airlines, including its stations abroad, the Ministry of Transport and Road Safety (Ministry of Transport), the Israel Airports Authority (IAA), and the National Security Council (NSC). Complementary examinations were conducted at the Israel Police, the Ministry of Finance, the Israel Institute for Intelligence and Special Operations (Mossad), the Civil Aviation Authority, the Directorate of Defense Research & Development in the Ministry of Defense, the Israeli Air Force, and the Israel National Cyber Directorate.

The Subcommittee of the Knesset State Audit Committee decided not to submit the full audit report before the Knesset but rather publish only the main audit actions and excerpts from its summary due to national security under Section 17(a) of the State Comptroller Law, 1958 [Consolidated Version].

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## Summary

The State Comptroller's Office recommends that the National Security Council (NSC), in collaboration with the Ministry of Transportation, the Ministry of Finance, the Civil Aviation Authority, the ISA, and the Police, conduct a comprehensive review addressing the entire spectrum of civil aviation security in Israel, including aviation departing from Israel, Israeli aviation from abroad, and incoming foreign aviation. In addition, the relevance of government and security cabinet decisions on the subject, some of which were made as early as the 1970s, should be examined. Furthermore, it is recommended that at the conclusion of the work, the NSC advises the Prime Minister and the security cabinet about the responsibility arrangement and resource allocation to ensure comprehensive oversight. The State Comptroller's Office recommends that the Prime Minister, the Minister of Transportation, and the Minister of Finance address and formulate comprehensive policies regarding aviation security.

