



End of the Saga: Effie Shtenzler Will Remain Chairman of Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael

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The Court accepted the position of Shtenzler and the Labor Party, according to which the job belongs to a Labor candidate

Effie Shtenzler will remain Chairman of KKL – Thus ruled the District Court in Petah-Tikvah. The ruling ended one of the bitter struggles in the Israeli public life, in which Shtenzler, the Minister of Industry Shalom Simhon – at first – and Prof. Shimon Shitrit – after – fought over the desired job.

The background to the affair is an agreement between the various Knesset factions, including Kadima, Likud, Israel Beiteinu and the National Union, regarding the division and the appointment of the Zionist institutions positions. According to the agreement, the right to appoint the Chairman of KKL was given to the Labor Party. Only then, the party split up and the factions made a bypass agreement, under which the role of the Chairman of KKL will belong to the Atzmaut Party. Atzmaut's candidate was Prof. Shimon Shitrit.

Shtenzler petitioned the Court, asking to enforce the original agreement and to determine that the Chairman of KKL position belongs to the Labor Party. Petah-Tikvah District Court's Judge, Prof. Ofer Groskoff, accepted the position of Shtenzler and the Labor Party, and determined that the factions should perform the agreement they made, according to which, the Chairman of KKL position belongs to the Labor Party and therefore Prof. Shitrit cannot serve as Chairman of KKL.

Among other things, Prof. Groskoff wrote in his judgement: "Is it conceivable that after most of the agreement was made, the factions who received their share will reach consensus among themselves which re-allocates the main roles that were supposed to fall in the share of another faction? Such action not only contradicts the fundamental precepts



of contract law, but constitutes, in my opinion, unacceptable behavior which justifies labeling the bypass agreement as an invalid agreement". The Court ordered the factions to formulate a proposal for a unified list of directors in accordance with the key which was decided in the original agreement, and ordered that Prof. Shimon Shitrit will not be represented and will not agree to be nominated to the position of the Chairman of KKL.

The Court ordered that the factions which Shtenzler petitioned against will pay him and the Labor Party legal expenses in the amount of 100,000 NIS. The petitioners were represented by attorneys Shaul Tzioni and Eli Philersdorf from Tzioni Philersdorf law office, and by attorneys Shmulik Cassouto and Daniel Tabakov from Cassouto Noff law office. The Labor Party was represented by attorney Igal Shapira.