

09/01/2010

Dear all ,

As some of you may be aware, about two years ago a comprehensive bike helmet law was legislated in Israel, making the wearing of bike helmets mandatory for all bike users. This law was never enforced, in part due to opposition from the *Israel Bicycle Association* (IBA), which announced a public campaign against the law (which efficiently demonstrated its extreme unpopularity in the public); and partially because IBA was effective in preventing the Knesset (Israeli Parliament) from legislating the regulations without which the law is unenforceable (standards for bike helmets and fines for breaking the law).

For a short survey of bike advocacy the helmet-law controversy in Israel, you can read a paper of mine (with M. Levy) titled "The Ecology of Physical Activity in Israel", published recently (October 2009) in *Sport in Society*.

Now for the good news: On **December 26**, The Ministerial Committee for Legislation threw its support behind a bill which would remove the requirement for adults to wear a helmet while riding a bicycle in the city.

Attached a link to the *Jerusalem Post* short cover:

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=JPost/JParticle/ShowFull&cid=1261364516738>

Last Wednesday (**January 6, 2010**), The Knesset voted with a huge majority to proceed with this bill (56 in support versus opposition from 6). Now the bill will be processed in the Knesset committees, hopefully to become a law in few months. In the meantime, Israeli press reacted as if the law has already been changed.

The Israeli helmet law will still remain effective as to children and extreme riding, probably never to be enforced.

During our campaign, and in the position papers written for the Knesset and the public, we have often cited the ECF position on this matter. We thank you all very much for your support and materials on the subject.

We will continue to update you on our struggle to change the helmet law.

Best regards,

**Dr. Daniel Mishori**

*The Israel Bicycle Association*