



European Council
The President



European Commission
The President

Brussels, 28 -09- 2016

SGS16/08430

Dear President Rivlin,

Please accept on behalf of the European Union our heartfelt condolences to the Government and people of Israel on the passing of former President Shimon Peres.

With the death of the former President the world has lost a true champion of peace. An icon on the world stage who will be dearly missed for his unwavering dedication to co-existence in the Middle East and between all peoples. He was instrumental in forging close ties of friendship and cooperation between Israel and other parts of the world, including Europe.

His long career as a senior official, a minister, prime minister and most recently as President was dedicated to building a strong and secure State of Israel. But he also remained convinced that his vision for Israel could only be achieved if the Palestinians were allowed to have a state as well, living in peace and security alongside Israel. Even in the darkest of hours he stuck to the vision of a two-state solution. This will be his enduring legacy.

He was a man of tremendous wit, humour, charm, hard work and dedication. Our hearts go out to Shimon Peres' family, who has lost a father and grandfather. Israel has lost a great statesman and Europe has lost a great friend and partner.

Peres never lost his faith in peace. We must keep his legacy alive by continuing his unflagging efforts for peace, cooperation and coexistence in the Middle East and globally.

For the European Council

Donald Tusk

For the European Commission

Jean-Claude Juncker

H.E. Mr Reuven (Ruve) Rivlin
President of the State of Israel