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Press release

EP delegation's statement on Israel

At the end of its visit to Israel from 30 April to 4 May 2012, the delegation of the European Parliament for relations with Israel adopted the following statement on bilateral relations between EU and Israel, recent developments in the region and Middle East peace process.

1 Bilateral relations between the EU and the State of Israel

The EP delegation underlined the importance of the existing traditional political, economic and cultural links and welcomed the partnership and cooperation between the EU and Israel. It expressed the will to implement and strengthen the framework for the political dialogue and to adopt an updated Action Plan. In this context, the delegation expressed its full support for the hard work done by the Association Committee.

2 New environment in the wider region

The EP delegation shared the grave Israeli concerns about the Iranian nuclear threat and expressed hopes for a negotiated settlement.

It observed the revolts in the Arab countries as a genuine demand of people asking for change. In this context, it strongly condemned the use of disproportionate violence against the people.

The EU should counter denormalisation trends towards Israel in Arab countries within the framework of the ENP; especially encouraging the Egyptian and Jordanian leadership to uphold their peace treaties with Israel.

3 Middle East Peace process

The EP delegation confirmed its will for a solution of the conflict based on a two-State solution guaranteeing secure borders for Israel. It expressed its strong wish in favour of new initiatives in the framework of the Quartet principles.

4 Cooperation

The EP delegation will continue its active cooperation with its counterpart of the Knesset in the spirit of this Statement.

The EP delegation was chaired by Bastiaan Belder (EFD,NL) and composed of Sari Essayah (EPP,FI), Ivo Vajgl (ALDE,SLO), Jan Albrecht (Greens,DE) and Hynek Fajmon (ECR,CZ).

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