



EUROPEAN UNION
Permanent Delegation to the United Nations Office
and other international organisations in Geneva

**United Nations Human Rights Council
23rd session**

**Interactive Dialogue
with Special Rapporteur on occupied
Palestinian territories occupied since 1967**

11 June 2013

EU Intervention

Mr. President,

The European Union thanks the Special Rapporteur for the presentation of his report. The EU is aware of the lack of cooperation of the Government of Israel with the Special Rapporteur. The EU continues to regret the unbalanced mandate of the Special Rapporteur and is also concerned that parts of the report include political considerations – for instance, paragraph 7. In the past, the EU emphasized that future reports should be based on a more factual and legal analysis, and we regret to see no genuine progress in that direction. This Council needs to be provided with accurate, factual information and solid allegations to fulfill its role and address the human rights situation in occupied Palestinian territory.

The European Union stated a number of its concerns at the 22nd session of the Human Rights Council, and wishes to recall its position on the issues highlighted in this report. Settlements, the separation barrier where built on occupied land, the demolition of homes and evictions are illegal under international law, constitute an obstacle to peace and undermine the viability of the two-state solution. The EU believes that the Guiding Principles on business and human rights need to be applied

globally and calls on European companies to implement the Guiding Principles in all circumstances, including in Israel and occupied Palestinian territory.

The EU reiterates its long standing concern about the situation of Palestinian prisoners. The European Union reiterates its call on all parties to comply with international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and to ensure accountability when violations occur.

The report presented to us today does not mention the publication of the second half of the Turkel Commission report released on 6 February 2013. The EU encourages the Government of Israel to fully use the recommendations contained in this report to ensure that all its investigations comply, in law and in practice, with international law. Could the Special Rapporteur share with us the reasons for this omission?

Thank you, Mr. President