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## Prime Minister Fayyad and President Barroso inaugurate Palestine College for Police Sciences in Jericho

**As part of the official visit of the President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso in the occupied Palestinian territory, the Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Salam Fayyad and President Barroso inaugurated today the Palestine College for Police Sciences in Jericho.**

The Palestine College of Police Sciences in Jericho was officially opened today by Prime Minister Fayyad and President Barroso in the presence of PA Ministers, Chief of Police, Major General Hazem Atallah, Heads of Palestinian Security forces, European Union Heads of Missions and international donors in the Security and Rule of Law sector. The construction of the compound – worth €15 million – was a multi-donor effort funded by the European Union as well as Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Finland, Sweden, the UK and Canada.

The College is a 'state-of-the-art' facility in the hands of the Palestinian Civil Police (PCP) to provide cadets and officers with the highest level of police training in accordance with international and Human Rights standards. The construction commenced in 2009 under the management of the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and today all twelve buildings of the compound are handed over to the PCP. Police training advisors from the European Union Co-ordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support (EUPOL COPPS) played a key role in developing the operational plan of the College, the curriculum of training activities and in being present at the College on a daily basis to train, mentor and advise the PCP staff at operational level.

"The EU's support goes beyond the construction of the College's infrastructure. It is about what the students will learn here and the quality of the people composing the Palestinian Civil Police. The onset for any police force to be able to provide the best of services to its people and gain the respect and trust of the society is education. The College has the capacity to become a reference institution providing a wide spectrum of disciplines and tools for the new cadets and officers to exert their duties diligently and, importantly, in full respect of Human Rights, to which the EU is closely attached ", said President Barroso at the opening.

Prime Minister Fayyad and President Barroso also signed an agreement of € 20 million in support of the Rule of Law and Democracy. This new agreement builds on the work done by the PCP and other justice institutions with the support of the EU. Funds will be allocated towards supporting the infrastructure and capacity of the PCP, the capacity of civil society in monitoring security sector institutions and also enhancing the quality of legal and judicial education in Palestinian institutions.

This contribution represents the EU's support to security sector reform of the Palestinian Authority. In the last five years, the EU has invested € 32 million in support of the Justice Sector and € 53 million to the Security Sector in support of improved Palestinian Rule of Law

including infrastructure, capacity building to different judicial institutions, support to the Palestinian Civil Police as well as civil society active on human rights and security. This adds up to the individual contributions of EU Member States and the work of the EUPOL COPPS Mission. Strengthening the institutions in the Rule of Law sector is central to the foundations of an independent, democratic and viable Palestinian state

**Background:**

The President of the Commission, José Manuel Barroso, is on an official visit in the occupied Palestinian territory and Israel between the 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> July. The President is holding meetings with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Salam Fayyad in Ramallah. The President will receive a briefing by UNRWA at the Aida refugee camp in Bethlehem and visit the Church of the Nativity and the Old City of Bethlehem with the PA Minister for Tourism.

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