



European Union Press Release

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The EU celebrates the 65th Europe Day in Ramallah

Palestinian Prime Minister, Rami Al Hamdallah, and the EU Representative, John Gatt-Rutter, today inaugurated an open-air exhibition of EU-funded initiatives from across Palestine to celebrate the 65th Europe Day. The event, which was attended by hundreds of visitors, involved the participation of EU member States, and was designed to show-case the work of the EU and its member States in Palestine through a wide variety of activities for all ages.

*"Today we are marking the 65th Europe Day. This is an opportunity to celebrate with our Palestinian partners years of joint work and close collaboration. This exhibition involves activities from across Palestine including Gaza and East Jerusalem demonstrating the enormous variety and diversity of our support for the Palestinian people" said **John Gatt-Rutter, the EU Representative**. "Through its diplomatic efforts and strong political stance in favour of peace based on the two-state solution; through its work in building the institutions of a future Palestinian state; through the help it provides to refugees in partnership with UNRWA and through the support it lends in sectors such as water and waste management, governance and business, the EU has consistently demonstrated its commitment to the Palestinian people" he added. "I am delighted to see here today so many members of the European family including our member States and our mission to support the Palestinian Civil Police, EUPOLCOPPS as well as the EU Border Assistance Mission.*

More than thirty of the EU's major partners in Palestine and several EU member states came together in the premises of the First Ramallah Group to participate in a public exhibition showcasing the EU's support for the Palestinian people. A variety of Palestinian products were exhibited, Bedouin communities from the outskirts of Jerusalem performed traditional music and dance and hundreds of children engaged in recreational activities, learning more about the European Union and its member States.

Background:

Europe Day celebrates the founding of the European Union, when European leaders decided to set aside differences and work together for the greater good of the people of Europe. On May 9th the European Union marks the symbolic date when in 1950 French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman put forward his ideas of a united Europe to bring lasting peace and prosperity to the continent. From the original Six to twenty-eight European countries today, the European Union is spreading democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights to more than 500 million European citizens. What started off as a coal and steel community and then turned into a broader economic club has since turned into an outward-looking Union with a growing role and reach, acting as a force for good in Europe and globally.

For more photos, please check the Europe Day 2015 album on FB:

https://www.facebook.com/EUandPalestinians?ref=aymt_homepage_panel#!/media/set/?set=a.636908569743532.1073741911.280141015420291&type=3

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