9th MAY 2014 EUROPE IN THE WORLD

The Middle East Peace Process

Israel, Palestine and the wider Middle East region

Priorities

The European Union is working with its partners in the international community to help Israelis and Palestinians to succeed in direct and substantial peace negotiations in order to achieve a lasting solution to the long-standing conflict between the two sides.

The EU believes the following principles underpin such a solution: an agreement on borders between Israel and Palestine based on the 1967 lines; resolution of the status of Jerusalem as the future capital of both states; a just fair and agreed solution for Palestine refugees; security arrangements that respect the sovereignty and respect the security of both states, and control of the Palestinian people over its natural resources.

The European Union strongly supports the Arab Peace Initiative, which provides regional backing for a comprehensive Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement by offering peace between Israel and the entire Arab and Muslim world.

Top 3 Facts

The EU is the largest provider of financial support to the Palestinian Authority and to the United Nations Agency in charge of support to Palestine refugees, UNRWA.

The European Union is a member of the so-called Middle East Quartet (together with the United States, the United Nations and Russia).

The European Union has close economic ties with both Israel (it is Israel's largest trading partner) and Palestine, making it a valued and influential partner to both sides.

Did you know?

The EU first set out its position on the **Palestinians' right to self-determination** and recognising the legitimacy of the Palestine Liberation Organisation as a representative of the **Palestinian people in the Venice Declaration of 1980**, 13 years before Israel and the PLO signed the Oslo Accords.



Visit of Catherine Ashton to Ramallah: Catherine Ashton and President Mahmoud Abbas, 20 June 2013.





U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C:

Catherine Ashton and Secretary of State John Kerry, 15 February 2013.

Meeting with Israel's President Peres: HR Catherine Ashton and President Shimon Peres, 24 January 2012.





Meeting with Israeli PM Netanyahu: Catherine Ashton and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, 20 June 2013.

9th May Europe Day

Main links:

EEAS Middle East Peace Process http://eeas.europa.eu/mepp/index_en.htm