

## EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



THE DIRECTOR

MD.IV. North Africa,Middle East,Arabian Peninsula,Iran and Iraq  
IV.A. North Africa,Middle East,Arabian Peninsula,Iran and Iraq

Brussels,  
EEAS/AK/dw

**Subject: PETITION – Without a viable peace, violence will return to the Middle-East**

Dear Petitioner,

The European Union (EU) wishes to see the resumption of direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, without delay or preconditions. These negotiations are needed to achieve a lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This will require bold and concrete steps by both parties. Clear parameters outlining the basis for negotiations are key elements for a successful outcome. The EU has stated its readiness to work with the US and other international partners, including within the Quartet, with the common aim of substantive peace efforts in 2013. The EU will also work with all those who are willing to join in such a quest for peace, stability and prosperity. The Arab Peace Initiative, in particular, provides regional support for a comprehensive Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement.

With regard to Gaza, the European Union has welcomed the ceasefire and commends the efforts of Egypt and all those who engaged in mediation. Fully recognising Israel's legitimate security needs, the European Union continues to call for the immediate, sustained and unconditional opening of crossings for the flow of humanitarian aid, commercial goods and persons to and from the Gaza Strip, the situation of which is unsustainable as long as it remains politically and economically separated from the West Bank

Yours sincerely,



Christian Berger