

Miguel Ángel Moratinos was appointed EU Special Envoy for the **Middle East peace process** on 25 November 1996 (Joint Action, [OJ L 315, 4.12.1996](#)). His mandate is to establish close contact with all the parties concerned, first and foremost with Israelis and Palestinians but also with other States in the region - Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt - and to contribute towards peace. Mr Moratinos's appointment adds a political dimension to the Union's economic weight in the Middle East.

1. Curriculum Vitae of Mr Miguel Ángel Moratinos



Mr. Miguel Angel MORATINOS

EU special representative for the Middle East Peace Process

NAME:

Miguel Ángel Moratinos Cuyaubé

DATE OF BIRTH:

June 8, 1951

NATIONALITY:

Spanish

MARITAL STATUS:

Married to Dominique Maunac, three children

PROFESSIONAL OCCUPATION:

Diplomat

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS:

- * Degree in Law and Political Sciences (Madrid)
- * Diploma in International Studies from the Diplomatic School

LANGUAGES:



Fluent in French and English, knowledge of Russian and Serbo-Croatian

OTHER DATA OF INTEREST:

- * President of the "Foro Exterior" Association
- * Knight of the Order of Civil Merit
- * Officer of the Order of Isabel the Catholic Queen
- * Commander of Civil Merit
- * Commander of the Alaouite "Ouissan" Order of Morocco
- * Commander of the Order of the Republic of Tunisia
- * Commander of the Order of Isabel the Catholic Queen
- * Cooperation Prize of the Arab Journalists Association (Presented by H.M. the King in 1994)
- * Alaoute Ouissan Order (Officer)
- * Commander of the Orange-Nassau Order of the Netherlands

POSITIONS AND OFFICES HELD UP TO DATE:

- * Director - Head of the Eastern Europe Coordination Desk (1974/79)
- * First Secretary at the Spanish Embassy in Yugoslavia (1979/80)
- * Chargé d'affaires at the Spanish Embassy in Yugoslavia (1980/84)
- * Political adviser at the Spanish Embassy to Rabat (1984/87)
- * Deputy Director General for Northern Africa (1987/91)
- * Director General of the Institute for Cooperation with the Arab World (1991/93)
- * Director General of Foreign Policy for Africa and the Middle East (since September 1993)
- * Ambassador of Spain in Israel from June 28 to December 4, 1996
- * EU Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process since December 1996

2. SPEECHES

- >>> [Apertura del ano academico el Instituto Cervantes de Tel Aviv](#)
Intervencion de Miguel Angel Moratinos. Tel Aviv, 25 October 2000
- >>> [A Mediterranean vision for the future of the Middle East](#)
Cervantes Institut - Amman, 8 May 2000
- >>> [European Union - Middle East: Developing Societies for Peace](#)
European Institute - Florence, 23 March 2000
- >>> [The image of the other one. Dialogue, cultures and communication](#)
Conference in the Forum Universal de las Culturas - Barcelona 2004, on April 24, 1999
- >>> [Recent Political and Economical Development in the Middle East Peace Process](#)

Conference in the Centre for Applied Policy Research, hosted by the Bertelsman Foundation in Munich on April 27, 1999

»» [Current Situation of the Palestinian State](#)

Colloque Institut de Relations Internationales - Le Monde Diplomatique, Paris 26 mars 1999.

»» [The future of Jerusalem](#)

Conference in Casablanca, on February 24, 1999

»» [Palestine and the European Union: A Partnership for Peace and Economic Development in the Middle East](#)

Conference about Current Political Developments between Palestine and the European Union, given in Ramallah on October 2, 1998

»» [Conference in the Escuela Diplomática de Madrid on June 1998](#)

Conference about History and Current Political Developments of the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process

»» [The role of the EU in the Middle East Peace Process](#)

Conference in the Institut Català de la Mediterrània d'Estudis i Cooperació, on May 31, 1998.

»» [The evolution of European Common Foreign and Security Policy](#)

Conference in the Helmut Kohl Institute for European Studies on January 11, 1998

3. MANDATE

When the 15 EU Foreign Ministers assembled at the Council in Brussels in November 1996 they agreed on a Joint Action under Article J.3 of the Treaty on the European Union and appointed Ambassador Miguel Angel Moratinos as the first EU Special Representative to the Middle East Peace Process. The annual mandate, successively prolonged by the Council of Ministers until today, gives wide-ranging responsibilities, which include among others:

- To establish and maintain close contact with all the parties to the peace process, and all other key regional and international countries and organisations;
- To observe negotiations and to be ready to offer the EU's advice and good offices should the parties request this;

- To contribute, where requested, to the implementation of agreements reached between the parties, and to engage with them diplomatically in the event of non-compliance with the terms of these agreements;
- To engage constructively with signatories to agreements within the framework of the peace process in order to promote compliance with the basic norms of democracy, including respect of human rights and the rule of law;

In pursuit of this mandate the Special Representative “shall be guided by, and report under the authority of, the Presidency, assisted by the Secretary General/High Representative (SG/HR) to the Council on a regular basis and as the need arises.” The European Commission, with whom the Special Envoy maintains close collaboration, is naturally fully associated.

Since the start of his mission, the EU Special Representative (EUSR) has been involved in all major events emanating from the Middle East Peace Process. Following are a few highlights of his engagement on the various tracks.

4. MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

- Israeli / Palestinian Track

Athens (4 April 2001)

The SG/HR and EUSR managed to broker the first high level meeting after the Israeli elections between Israelis and Palestinians, with the assistance of the Government of Greece, in Athens. The aim of this event was to resume a dialogue on how to address the political, security and economic issues in order to end the vicious cycle of violence raging the Palestinian territories.

Taba (January 2001)

This was the last and one of the most successful efforts of both parties to close negotiations on the issues that were already addressed in Camp David in July. Never before was so much agreement achieved on issues such as land, refugees, Jerusalem, settlements and security. On behalf of the EU, the EUSR was asked by both parties to listen to the points of agreement and disagreement. In February the EU General Affairs Council stated that renewed negotiations should start from this point.

Sharm El Sheikh II (October 2000)

The SG/HR and EUSR, representing the EU, were present and contributed to the success of this gathering, which tried to define ways to end the violence between Israel and the Palestinians. The EU maintains that the understandings reached there are still valid and provide a good base for disengagement and an end to incitement.

Re-launch of the Multilaterals in Moscow (February/2000)

Following the break through in Sharm El Sheikh, which was made possible due to the newly elected Israeli government, the SG/HR Solana and the EUSR encouraged Russia, Co-Sponsor of the Peace Process to call for the re-launching of the Multilateral Track, which had remained in a impasse since 1996. On 1 February the Ministerial Steering Group of formally re-launched the Multilateral Middle East Peace Process and based on a proposal of the EUSR started a serious review of past performance with a view to improve structure and effectiveness.

Gathering of Peacemakers in New York (09/99)

Since long the EUSR maintained that once Palestinians and Israelis sign an agreement this would need to be supported immediately by all the key regional and international actors in the peace process. The US, in accepting this proposal, organised in collaboration with the EU Presidency and the EUSR, in the margins of the UN General Assembly in New York such an event in order to support the Sharm El Sheikh Agreement, with the participation of most Gulf, Middle Eastern and Magreb Foreign Ministers.

Sharm El Sheikh Agreement No. I (04/09/99)

The Wye River Memorandum signed a year earlier was only reluctantly and partially implemented This made a re-negotiation of the terms necessary. The Palestinian side only was willing to sign this renewed agreement upon receiving letters of reassurances from both the US and the EU.

Berlin Declaration (26/03/99)

On 4 May 1999 the Interim Agreement between Israel and the Palestinians was slated to end. President Arafat, based on his right to self-determination wanted to declare the independence of a Palestinian state. Mainly due to the reassurances received by the EU through the Berlin Declaration was he persuaded to postpone this. The landmark Berlin Declaration, adopted by the EU Heads of State, represents a landmark of EU diplomacy in the context of its Common Foreign and Security Policy.

Opening of Gaza Airport (24/11/98)

Due to the active diplomacy of the EU and the EUSR and following the Wye River Memorandum the Gaza airport finally was opened to flights that allowed the Palestinians for the first time to establish a direct outlet to the rest of the world. The airport is mainly financed by the EU and a strategic project for economic recovery.

Wye River Memorandum (23/10/98)

This Memorandum brought an end to the nineteen-month impasse in the peace process since the Hebron Protocol was signed. The EUSR actively monitored the negotiations at the Wye River Plantation.

Code of Conduct (April '97)

Negotiations on the interim issues such as further withdrawals of Israeli forces, prisoner releases, settlement stop and economic issues remained in stalemate. The EUSR therefore proposed and negotiated with both parties a "Code of Conduct" in order to introduce mutually acceptable guiding principles to resume and conduct the talks. This "Code" aimed to "pave the way for an approach which combines both security concerns and political, economic and cultural policies based on the pursuit of mutual prosperity and welfare". Both the EU Parliament and the Council of Ministers supported the adoption of the "Code", however, at the last minute a new crisis reaching both sides prevented its signing.

Hebron Protocol (17 January '97)

Ten months behind schedule and after three month of hard negotiations the Hebron Protocol was signed detailing the Israeli withdrawal from the city. This agreement was reinforced with two letters of assurances: one from the US and the other from the EU, carefully negotiated by the EUSR and signed by the EU Presidency. It was the first letter of its kind that the EU signed and marked a new quality of commitment by pledging to "use all its political and moral weight to ensure that all the provisions in the agreement already reached will be fully implemented".

- **Syrian and Lebanese Tracks**

Frequent visits by the EUSR to Damascus and Beirut allowed him to demonstrate the EU's commitment to preserve the comprehensive nature of the peace process, and to probe Syria's willingness to resume negotiations with Israel. The EUSR has paid special attention to the Syrian-Lebanese tracks throughout his mission. He has visited Damascus 21 times. The visits helped to defuse increased Syrian/Israeli tensions in 1997-1999, and provided a channel to explore new ideas, which could help re-launch the negotiations.

The diplomatic efforts of Ambassador Moratinos were particularly intense during the tenure of Prime Minister Netanyahu, who engaged on a political dialogue. The shuttling diplomacy of the EUSR was crucial at that time to diffuse tensions and exchange messages between both sides.

This activity continued with the Barak Government, both before and after the Shepperdstown talks.

Aid to assist Southern Lebanon

In line with his mandate the EUSR has also focused on the Lebanese track, thus reaffirming the EU's position on Lebanese independence and territorial integrity. He has also taken an interest in refugee problems with the objective of alleviating short-term humanitarian needs, and focusing attention on longer-term solutions. He has met a wide range of civil society in Lebanon, including business representatives, and addressed several institutions on the peace process, as well as regular visit to UNRWA and UNIFIL.

Following the unilateral Israeli withdrawal the EUSR was instrumental in alerting the EU and other international donors to support Southern Lebanon's re-integration after nearly 22

years of occupation and the extension of authority. In this respect the Special Representative encouraged and participated in an international NGO conference (September 2000) that focused on the development needs.

- **Projects**

EU/Israel Forum (April/2000)

The EU political involvement in the Peace Process suffered from the allegation that the EU was biased pro-Arab/Palestinian. This perception contradicts reality, since Israel enjoys a privileged relationship with the EU in terms of trade, science and political relations. In order to further develop EU/Israeli relations and show that the EU was only pro-peace the EUSR proposed the establishment of an EU/Israel Forum for dialogue, which was approved by the Council of Ministers in December 1999. It was formally inaugurated during the Portuguese Presidency in April in Jerusalem. Through a high level dialogue between the EU/Israel Forum aims to improve understanding of each others complexities through communication between civil societies, business and media people from both sides.

Task Force on Strengthening Palestinian Public Institutions (summer 1999)

In an exceptional EU/US effort, the Council on Foreign Relations managed, with EU financing, to complete an unprecedented detailed and thorough evaluation of Palestinians public institutions and designed a set of recommendations on how best to improve their performance, thereby enhancing the respect for the rule of law and financial and democratic transparency. The EUSR who, together with Henry Siegman from the CFR, initiated this project, is member of a high level Task Force composed of EU/US personalities (a.o. Michel Rocard, Carl Bildt, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Felipe Gonzalez, Lee Hamilton, Douglas Hurd, Graf Lambsdorff, Dick Spring, Romano Prodi), who oversee this institutional reform effort.

Joint EU/Palestinian Security Committee (since April 1998)

The aim of the Joint EU/Palestinian Security Committee, initiated and chaired by the EUSR on behalf of the EU, resulted from the recognition that the Palestinian security services require assistance on issues to devolve to them following negotiations at the political level. Since then the EU has provided training and expertise.

Informal EU Task Force on Water and Refugees (since July 1998)

Both Israel and the Palestinians explicitly called for the EU to prepare itself in order to be ready to assist on these two crucial final status issues. The EUSR therefore established two informal EU task forces with the aim to first start preparing internal options that could inform the EU position on these issues and to provide assistance to both parties when requested.

EU/Israel Dialogue on the Palestinian Economy (since June 1997)

Under the responsibility of the EUSR, the EU has a regular exchange of views with Israel. It is conducted in four joint working groups (Passage of Goods & People, Gaza Airport & Port; Fiscal & Financial Issues; Labour Issues, Medium & Longer Term Economic Potentials), and aims to assist the implementation of the economic protocols between Israel and the Palestinians. This dialogue has among others, and at relative times, contributed to: easing restrictions on moving Palestinians goods and people; helped to increase the number of legal Palestinians labourers in Israel; provided transparency on Israeli export and custom procedures; assisted the opening of the Gaza airport.

5. Staff of Mr. Miguel Angel MORATINOS / Membres de l'équipe de M. Miguel Angel MORATINOS

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