



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation to the United Nations
Head of Delegation

New York, 28 November 2017

Excellency,

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, the European Union wishes to convey the following message.

The Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia* and Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this message.

As outlined in the last Security Council Open Debate on the Middle East, the EU's commitment to achieving a two-state solution remains the central element of our policy.

A negotiated two-state solution, which ends the 50 years of occupation and fulfils the aspirations of both sides, is the only way to bring the lasting peace and security that both Israelis and Palestinians deserve. This is also why the EU will continue to speak out clearly when developments or incidents threaten the two-state solution, and undermine the peace process.

The EU deeply deplores and strongly opposes Israel's settlement policy, which is illegal under international law. As reaffirmed by the UN Security Council Resolution 2334, it also dangerously threatens the viability of the two-state solution and the possibility for the Palestinian people to fulfil their unconditional right to self-determination, including the possibility of establishing a sovereign state. The EU will not recognize any changes to the 4 June 1967 lines, including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed to by the parties themselves through negotiations.

The EU is deeply concerned that the continuing cycle of violence has led to loss of human life in recent months. The EU firmly condemns the terror attacks and violence from all sides and in any circumstances.

H.E. Mr. Fodé Seck
Chairman
Committee on the Exercise of the
Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People
United Nations

* *The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.*

In Gaza, an already dire humanitarian situation has been worsening in past months. A key priority is to immediately improve the dire situation of the people in Gaza. It requires, including without limitation, the end of the closure and a full opening of the crossing points, while addressing Israel's legitimate security concerns.

The unsustainable situation in Gaza and recent tensions in East Jerusalem underline the need for a political horizon. The EU welcomes the agreement signed in Cairo on 12 October, and the continuing engagement of Egypt. If fully implemented, this agreement can become an important step towards achieving the goal of Palestinian unity under a single, legitimate and democratic Palestinian national Authority on the basis of the PLO platform, Quartet principles, and in accordance with existing agreements.

The EU will continue to work tirelessly with the parties, regional and international partners, not least within the Middle East Quartet, to promote a return to a meaningful process towards a negotiated two-state solution, in line with known parameters; towards a peace that can be sustained.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a long horizontal stroke that curves upwards at the end.

João Vale de Almeida
Ambassador