European Parliament

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Delegation for relations with Palestine

8 - 12 February 2016

West Bank/Gaza – Palestine

Press release

A delegation of the European Parliament in Palestine on 8-12 February 2016

04-02-2016: a cross-party delegation of the European Parliament's Delegation for Relations with Palestine will be on the ground in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza between 8 and 12 February 2016. A press conference will be given on Thursday 11-2-2016 at al-Makassed Hospital in East Jerusalem.

Following the adoption of **European Union** (EU) Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions on the Middle East **Peace Process** on 18 January 2016, and as part of its mandate of democratic **scrutiny of the EU policies and budget - with EU support to the Palestinians amounting to 300 million euros per annum -** the delegation will assess the situation on the ground, with special focus on EU policies and assistance programmes.

In its meetings with the Palestinian National Authority, including President Mahmoud Abbas, representatives of the Palestinian Legislative Council and civil society representatives, the EP delegation will assess the diplomatic actions undertaken by the EU in support of its support to a two-state solution that meets Israeli and Palestinian security needs and Palestinian statehood and sovereignty, ends the occupation that began in 1967, and resolves all permanent status issues in order to end the conflict. It will discuss the implementation of the **EU guidelines on the indication of origin of settlement products**. The delegation also intends to address the issue of the EU support to the rebuilding of Gaza, the **demolitions of EU-funded structures and the overall cost-effectiveness of EU assistance to the Palestinians**. Last but not least, it will also **assess**

human rights and democratic developments, including the need for the holding of the long-overdue elections to the Palestinian Legislative Council.

The group will be led by Delegation Chair Martina Anderson (GUE/NGL,) and composed of 6 other Members: Margrete Auken (Vice-Chair of Delegation, Greens), Roza Thun (EPP,), Eugen Freund (S&D,), Patrick Le Hyaric (GUE/NGL,), Rosa D'Amato (EFDD,) and Konstantinos Papadakis (NI,).

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