Press release
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The European Union and Palestinian Authority hold policy dialogue meetings in Ramallah

The European Union (EU) and Palestinian Authority officials are meeting in Ramallah on Tuesday and Wednesday as part of an annual policy dialogue, which guides the partnership between the EU and Palestine[1]. The two days will be dedicated to the work of two separate sub-committees: one on Human Rights, Good Governance, and the Rule of Law; and another on Research, Innovation, Information Society, Education, Youth, Media and Culture.

Officials from the EU and their counterparts at the relevant Palestinian Authority Ministries engaged in detailed exchanges on the latest developments and progress achieved in these important areas of cooperation between the EU and Palestine.

"The two subcommittees demonstrate our continuous and constructive dialogue with the Palestinian Authority. Through this, we aim to improve key areas of mutual cooperation and highlight fundamental issues to address, improve, and develop. Our meetings come at a time when Palestinians are facing many difficulties in their day to day lives. We are working to put the recommendations and conclusions drafted in the subcommittees into action. Stronger, more democratic, viable and inclusive Palestinian institutions are fundamental for achieving the two state solution," said **EU Representative Ralph Tarraf**.

In the Sub-Committee for **Human Rights, Good Governance, and the Rule of Law**, discussions focused on the progress achieved on the commitments agreed in the Action Plan. The sub-committee then exchanged views on the areas of: human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy, rule of law and good governance, and a discussion of priorities for 2016-2017. The priorities took into account the implementation of Palestine's commitments under international conventions in the areas of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The dialogue of the Sub-Committee on **Research, Innovation, Information Society, Education, Youth, Media and Culture** focused on presenting an overview of recent developments in the aforementioned areas and corresponding

[1] This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

contributions from Palestinian representative institutions and the EU. The subcommittee also discussed future cooperation opportunities and Palestine's participation in regional platforms and initiatives. The Horizon 2020 programme and Palestine's participation in regional Euro-Mediterranean research and innovation platforms and initiatives was also discussed and evaluated. In parallel, a technical seminar on the Horizon 2020 programme was held with researchers and academics from across the West Bank and Gaza.

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