Press Release
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Celebrating Europe Day in Ramallah

On Monday 9th May the Office of the European Union Representative in Jerusalem celebrated on Europe day in Ramallah marking the 66th anniversary of the founding of the European Union.

Palestinian Prime Minister, Rami Al Hamdallah, and the EU Representative, Ralph Tarraf, opened an open-air exhibition of EU Member State and EU-Palestinian cooperation projects from across Palestine to celebrate Europe Day and the longstanding partnership and support for Palestinians. The exhibition was attended by hundreds of visitors including children and families who participated in a wide variety of activities.

On this occasion, the European Union celebrates Robert Schuman's declaration made 66 years ago to unite Europe against wars and towards peace. The European Union was established on the basis that its unity is indispensable to the maintenance of world peace. This vision is at the frontline of the EU's mission towards promoting values of democracy and freedom across the world as well as Europe.

"On Europe Day, we reaffirm our deep commitment to fundamental rights, democracy and the rule of law. Those were the keys to peace and prosperity as well as the establishment of a united Europe. This is an opportunity to remember where the EU came from, and above all how far it has come. We celebrate this day with our Palestinian partners to say, yet again, that human rights and dignity are a priority; we have a responsibility to stand up to protect the fundamental values and interests that we share with Palestinians as well as people of the world,' said the ***EU Representative Ralph Tarraf.*** *''Today's message will resonate across continents: this day is a symbol of hope for a better future and peaceful cooperation. With hope and determination, we will continue working towards the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the basis of the two-state vision and for a better future for the region,'' he added.*

More than thirty of the EU's partners in Palestine and several EU member states came together in the premises of the First Ramallah Group to participate in a public exhibition. A variety of Palestinian products were exhibited, Palestinian and international dances, and hundreds of children engaged in recreational activities, learning more about the European Union and its Member States.

Background:
Europe Day celebrates the founding of the European Union, when European leaders decided to set aside differences and work together for the greater good of the people of Europe. On May 9th the European Union marks the symbolic date when in 1950 French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman put forward his ideas of a united Europe to bring lasting peace and prosperity to the continent. From the original Six to twenty-eight European countries today, the European Union is spreading democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights to more than 500 million European citizens. What started off as a coal and steel community and then turned into a broader economic club has since turned into an outward-looking Union with a growing role and reach, acting as a force for good in Europe and globally.

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