Press Release

Jerusalem

21 September 2016

**On the International Day of Peace:**

**1000 Palestinian children send a message of peace to the world**

**The European Union Representative and the Palestinian Minister of Education & Higher Education joined 1000 Palestinian Children in Ramallah to celebrate the International Day of Peace. Children flew balloons and released white doves into the sky to mark this international day. A group of the children handed over a letter about their hopes and dreams of a better future. Copies of this letter were also sent to the members of the international quartet.**

Since 1981, 21 September has been marked as the International Day of Peace by the United Nations' General Assembly. This day is devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. The celebrations in Ramallah are a powerful reminder that a peaceful resolution of the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians is urgently needed and long overdue.

*"We remain committed to investing in peace and security,"* said **Ralph Tarraf, the EU Representative.** *"Today, I joined Palestinian children who express their hopes for a better future in which they can live in peace and dignity. It is heartening to see that future generations share our vision of a peaceful resolution of the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians and urge us to act upon it," he added.*

"We Want Peace" initiative is supported by the European Union's Peacebuilding Initiative (EUPI), in collaboration with the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education. The EUPI seeks to empower Palestinians and Israelis to lay the foundations for a durable and sustainable peace, from the grassroots up and promote tolerance, non-violence and dialogue. The EUPI finances a wide range of civil society-led projects and activities in sectors which are likely to affect people's everyday lives.

**For further details please contact:**

**The Office of the European Union Representative**
Shadi Othman (02 5415 867, 0599 673 958); Inas Abu Shirbi (02 541 5 859, 0599 673 957)
http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/westbank/