Foreign & Commonwealth Office

BCG Press Release: British Minister meets Palestinian business leaders

British Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for International Trade Mark Garnier visited the Occupied Palestinian Territories last week. His visit came as part of the UK's ongoing work to improve links with Palestinian businesses.

During his visit, Mr Garnier met Dr. Mohammad Mustafa, Palestinian Investment Fund chairman and a number of Palestinian business leaders. He discussed the challenges and areas of development for the Palestinian economy and opportunities for cooperation.

Mr Garnier also visited IRIS Interactive Solutions, a start-up supported by the UK-funded Palestinian Market Development Programme (PMDP). IRIS works in the sectors of Interactive Touch Technology and Assistive Technology for children with autism and disabilities.

Finally, Mr Garnier visited and toured the city of Rawabi. He heard about the vision for the first Palestinian planned city from founder Mr Bashar Masri.

At the end of the visit, Mr Garnier said:

> *"It was my pleasure to visit the Occupied Palestinian Territories this week. I had productive meetings with business leaders, in which we discussed opportunities to improve links between Palestinian and British businesses.*
>
> *"I was also impressed with the creativity and determination of the companies and business people I met, especially given the many challenges their economy faces. The UK remains committed to a two-state solution and the establishment of a Palestinian state based on 1967 borders, which will unlock the potential of the Palestinian economy."*

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