European Parliament

2014-2019

Delegation for relations with Palestine

20 - 24 February 2017

Palestine

Press release

A delegation of the European Parliament will visit Palestine on 20 - 24 February 2017

16-02-2017: a cross-party delegation of the European Parliament's Delegation for Relations with Palestine will be in Palestine from 20 to 24 February 2016. The Delegation will be based in Jerusalem and will meet with President Abbas and other high-level Palestinian Authority officials as well as civil society, students and peace activists in a visit marking the 50 years of occupation.

The Delegation will also meet with communities at risk of forcible displacement and with civil society organisations battling the ramped-up settlement expansion.

"Settlement expansion and the recently-enacted regularisation law constitute a concrete threat to the two-state solution supported by the European Union and the international community, as evidenced by UN Security Council resolution 2334," Delegation Chair Neoklis Sylikiotis stated. "Settlements are an obstacle to peace as they are threatening the contiguity of a future Palestinian state".

The Delegation will be discussing in-depth with various sectors of society how to move towards achieving the two-state solution, and how the EU can **support** this goal.

"**I would like to reiterate our support to the recognition of a viable independent Palestinian state, with East Jerusalem as its capital, on the 1967 borders, living in peace alongside Israel,"** Chair Sylikiotis stated. "**The EU must exert pressure on Israel in order to put an end to its settlement, to lift the occupation and commit to a roadmap for peace and two state solution. We want peace for the Palestinian people, the Israeli people, and all the people of the Middle East".**

The Delegation will give a press conference on Thursday 23 February 2017 in Jerusalem.

The group will be led by Delegation Chair Neoklis Sylikiotis (GUE/NGL, Cyprus) and composed of 4 other Members: Margrete Auken (Vice-Chair of Delegation, Greens, Denmark), Brando Benifei (S&D, Italy), Ivo Vajgl (ALDE, Slovenia) and Angela Vallina (GUE/NGL, Spain).