

Jerusalem
12 February 2019

Local EU statement on the extension of the ban on Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem

The European Union Representative issues the following statement in agreement with the EU Heads of Mission in Jerusalem and Ramallah.

The EU Missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah deeply regret the extension of the ban on Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem, including the Orient House and the Arab Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which have now been prevented from operating for the past 18 years.

The EU firmly believes that there is a strong need for such institutions, which should be allowed to function as focal points for Palestinians in East Jerusalem. This is a key concern for the EU, as the lack of Palestinian institutional presence in East Jerusalem continues to negatively affect the political, economic, social and cultural life of Palestinians living there, as well as the security situation on the ground.

The European Union has a clear and consolidated position on Jerusalem, reaffirmed in numerous Foreign Affairs Council conclusions. The EU will not recognise any changes to the pre-1967 borders including with regard to Jerusalem, other than those agreed by the parties.

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