



Saturday 10th October 2009, Ramallah

Statement by EUSR Marc Otte in Bethlehem Palestinian Civil Police (PCP) HQ

The European Union Special Representative (EUSR) to the Middle East Peace Process, Ambassador Marc OTTE, made the following statement today, Saturday 10th October, during his visit to the Bethlehem Palestinian Civil Police (PCP) HQ:

“Since I first visited the Bethlehem Police HQ in 2005, when we started our cooperation with the PCP, I see a well-structured and constantly improving civil police at the service of the community. Having made other such visits recently, I can confirm that this is the case throughout the West Bank”.

“This improvement is first and foremost the result of a political determination of the Palestinian Authority to establish and maintain law and order as a Palestinian national interest. It is also the result of the commitment by all policemen to enforce the law and to serve their community. Without this, the considerable assistance that the European Union has provided over the years would not be as effective as it is the case now”.

The EUSR underlined that:

“The EU assistance to the PCP is part of a broader commitment to support Palestinian state building in accordance with the political programme of the Palestinian government”.

Ambassador OTTE made clear that:

“The EU engagement will remain intense and focused in order to achieve the goals of the Palestinian Authority in the security area, in cooperation and coordination with the other donors and in full partnership with the Palestinian Authority”.

The EUSR expressed his satisfaction at the excellent and friendly atmosphere under which Palestinian and European policemen are working.

Ambassador OTTE inspected the training of the Bethlehem Public Order Unit, the work of the Explosive Ordinance Disposal Unit and the functioning of the new Operational Control Room at Bethlehem PCP HQ.

Bethlehem District has served as testing ground for a series of pilot projects by EUPOL COPS aimed at improving the capacity and capability of the Palestinian Civil Police. These include enhancing the development of Operational Control Rooms, the Family Protection Unit and the creation of a Network System that connects all PCP stations.

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