



Plenary sitting

B9-0553/2022

9.12.2022

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission

pursuant to Rule 132(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the prospects of the two-state solution for Israel and Palestine
(2022/2949(RSP))

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on behalf of the S&D Group

**European Parliament resolution on the prospects of the two-state solution for Israel and Palestine
(2022/2949(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on the Middle East peace process, in particular its resolution of 18 May 2017 on achieving the two-state solution in the Middle East¹,
- having regard to the Council conclusions on the Middle East peace process, in particular those of 16 December 2013, 12 May 2014, 20 July 2015, 18 January 2016, and 20 June 2016,
- having regard to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the State of Israel, of the other part²,
- having regard to the Euro-Mediterranean Interim Association Agreement on trade and cooperation between the European Community, of the one part, and the Palestine Liberation Organization for the benefit of the Palestinian Authority of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, of the other part³,
- having regard to the Commission's Interpretative Notice on indication of origin of goods from the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967⁴,
- having regard to the guidelines on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, awards and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards of 19 July 2013,
- having regard to the European Union's 2021 report on Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem,
- having regard to the Joint Declaration of the European Union and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) on EU support to UNRWA (2021-2024) of 17 November 2021,
- having regard to the Geneva Conventions of 1949,
- having regard to relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and UN General Assembly,
- having regard to the 2022 Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of

¹ OJ C 307, 30.8.2018, p. 113.

² OJ L 147, 21.6.2000, p. 3.

³ OJ L 187, 16.7.1997, p. 3.

⁴ OJ C 375, 12.11.2015, p. 4.

human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967,

- having regard to the 2022 Report on the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) assistance to the Palestinian people: Developments in the economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territory,
 - having regard to the Oslo Accords of 1993 and 1995,
 - having regard to the Arab Peace Initiative of 2002,
 - having regard to the Middle East Quartet Roadmap of 2013,
 - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas achieving peace in the Middle East remains a key priority for the international community, including the European Union, and an indispensable component of global stability and security;
- B. whereas the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy has on several occasions expressed his commitment to renewing and intensifying the role of the European Union in the Middle East peace process;
- C. whereas the European Union's relations with both sides must be based on respect for human rights and democratic principles, which guides their internal and international policy and constitutes an essential element of these relations;
- D. whereas - according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) - 2022 has been the deadliest year since 2006 for Palestinians residing in the occupied West Bank, including in East Jerusalem, with at least 105 Palestinians, including 26 children, killed by Israeli forces up to 18 October 2022, while 10 Israeli civilians, three foreigners and four Israeli soldiers have been killed by Palestinians from the West Bank in the same period;
- E. whereas major Israeli, Palestinian and international human rights organisations as well as several UN Special Rapporteurs have recently issued reports asserting that Israel's policies towards the Palestinians amount to apartheid according to international law;
- F. whereas about 2 million Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip have been facing a chronic and worsening humanitarian crisis for the past 15 years as a result of Hamas rule, recurrent wars and the ongoing blockade which constitutes a collective punishment of the population; whereas - according to UN OCHA - nearly 80 % of Gazans rely on humanitarian assistance, more than half of Gazans live in poverty, and nearly 80 % of young people in the Gaza Strip are unemployed;
- G. whereas the Gaza Strip lacks adequate medical facilities and services for several serious illness treatments, including radiotherapy and chemotherapy; whereas patients with these illnesses have to request medical exit permits from the Israeli authorities; whereas a high proportion of requests, including for small children, are delayed or denied for security reasons, resulting in deaths; whereas the requests of many parents, usually

mothers, applying to accompany their children for medical treatment are refused or left unanswered, leaving the children unaccompanied when receiving critical medical treatment;

- H. whereas - according to the 2021 Report on Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, by the Office of the European Union Representative (West Bank and the Gaza Strip, UNRWA) - last year saw a further increased rate of advancement of settlement units in the occupied Palestinian territories (22 030), in particular in East Jerusalem where the number of new housing units more than doubled compared to 2020 (from 6 288 to 14 894), as part of the trend of continuous Israeli settlement expansion;
- I. whereas - according to UN OCHA - 7 088 structures, including 1 419 donor-funded structures, were demolished and 9 931 people were displaced in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in the context of the occupation in the decade since December 2012;
- J. whereas Israeli authorities continue pursuing a systematic policy of administrative detention without charge or trial of Palestinians; whereas - according to the Palestinian Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association - 4 760 Palestinian political prisoners, including 820 administrative detainees, 160 children, 33 women, and six Members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, are still being detained by Israel;
- K. whereas, in October 2021, the Israeli Ministry of Defence issued a military order which designated six Palestinian non-governmental organisations (Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, Al-Haq, Bisan Centre for Research and Development, Defense for Children International-Palestine, the Union of Agricultural Work Committees and the Union of Palestinian Women's Committees) as 'unlawful associations' (terrorist organisations); whereas in August 2022 the offices of these organisations were raided, documents were confiscated and equipment was destroyed by Israeli forces; whereas these organisations continue facing intimidation and attempts to delegitimise them;
- L. whereas the European Union's entire 2021 funding to the Palestinian Authority was delayed for months due to the attempts by the Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement to add a conditionality requiring the revision of Palestinian textbooks; whereas this proposal was repeatedly voted down by a majority in the Council; whereas this delay resulted in substantial damage to the functioning of the Palestinian administration, in particular basic services, including public health, and a lack of funds to pay the salaries of its civil servants;
- M. whereas, on 11 May 2022, journalist Shireen Abu Aqla was killed during an Israeli military raid in Jenin in the occupied West Bank; whereas, despite numerous calls to do so, no independent investigation into her killing has been conducted so that the perpetrators of this criminal act have not been held to account;
- N. whereas - according to the 2022 UNCTAD report - the Israeli occupation distorts the Palestinian economy and is forcing the de-agriculturalisation and deindustrialisation of the occupied territories, resulting in worsening socioeconomic conditions for the Palestinian population; whereas UNCTAD estimates the costs of restrictions on

Palestinian economic activity at 25.3 % of West Bank GDP and the cumulative GDP loss during the period 2000–2020 at USD 50 billion;

- O. whereas unemployment in the occupied Palestinian territories remains high at an overall rate of 26 % while over half the workforce in the Gaza Strip remains unemployed and the unemployment rate is at 17 % in the West Bank; whereas the Palestinian economy's weak capacity for job creation while under occupation leaves no choice for a large proportion of Palestinian workers but to seek employment in Israel and in the settlements;
1. Reiterates its call for an end to the protracted Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the occupation of Palestinian land through the resumption of genuine peace talks between both sides on the basis of established parameters for a two-state solution, with the support of the international community, leading to a negotiated final status agreement; welcomes the Palestinian leadership's repeated calls for peace talks and deplores the lack of such commitment by the Israeli government;
 2. Deplores the lack of tangible results in the Middle East peace process in the past decades, despite various initiatives, resulting in continued violence and the loss of many innocent lives, a constantly deteriorating situation on the ground in the occupied Palestinian territories, the continued expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, including in East Jerusalem, the ongoing blockade of the Gaza Strip, increasing frustration in Palestinian society, growing tensions in Israeli society, protracted instability in the Middle East and the instrumentalisation of the conflict by extremist groups;
 3. Condemns and calls for an immediate end to all acts of violence between Israelis and Palestinians, including the excessive use of force in military operations by the Israeli Defence Forces, terrorist attacks against innocent civilians and targeting civilian infrastructures, mounting settler violence and the indiscriminate firing of rockets from the Gaza Strip into Israel; is particularly concerned about the risk of forcible transfers in the Masafer Yatta area; recalls that the transfer of the civilian population of an occupying power to a militarily occupied territory violates the Fourth Geneva Convention and constitutes a war crime under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court; calls for an end to impunity for crimes against international humanitarian law committed by any actor involved in the conflict and for those responsible to be brought to justice and held to account;
 4. Reiterates its strong support for the two-state solution as the only viable solution to the conflict, with the State of Israel and the State of Palestine living together side-by-side in peace and security, mutually recognising each other and the 1967 borders, with mutually agreed land swaps and Jerusalem as the capital of both states; is concerned about the further entrenchment of an undemocratic one-state reality of unequal rights, perpetual occupation and conflict; calls on Member States to stand united behind the two-state solution and to support the VP/HR in developing European Union initiatives aimed at achieving this objective;
 5. Reiterates its unwavering commitment to the security of Israelis and Palestinians alike;
 6. Condemns the Palestinian Authority's systematic efforts to muzzle dissent, including by

arbitrarily arresting critics and opponents, who are often subjected to torture or other ill-treatment; condemns the killing by Palestinian Authority forces of prominent activist and critic Nizar Banat, who was beaten to death while in custody, and deplores the continuing lack of accountability for his death;

7. Reiterates its support for recognition of Palestinian statehood, as expressed in its resolution of 17 December 2014, and calls for continued European Union support for Palestinian state-building on the basis of democracy, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms;
8. Recalls that according to the Oslo Accords and relevant UN Security Council resolutions, the status of Jerusalem must be decided by the two parties without any action by a third party pre-empting this decision; urges the United States to reverse its decision to relocate its embassy to Israel in Jerusalem and urges it to also reopen its consulate in East Jerusalem; calls for full respect for the status quo of the Holy Esplanade (al-Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount) in Jerusalem, which was put in place in 1967;
9. Reiterates its call for easing the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip and for an end to its fifteen-year-long blockade through a political solution, in compliance with the necessary security arrangements; urges the Israeli authorities to revise their exit permit policy to allow Palestinian patients to access proper medical treatment without delay and children exiting the Gaza Strip for medical treatment to be accompanied by one of their parents; calls on the Israel authorities to provide all cancer patients with three-month permits in order to avoid the risk of delayed permits preventing them from obtaining timely treatment; calls again for unhindered access to be granted to Members of European Parliament for humanitarian field visits to the Gaza Strip;
10. Reiterates the importance of Palestinian reconciliation and unity in the Middle East peace process; is deeply concerned that presidential elections have not been held in Palestine since 2005 and legislative elections since 2006, and deplores the indefinite postponement of the elections planned for 2021 by President Mahmoud Abbas; calls for transparent, credible and inclusive presidential and legislative elections to be held in Palestine in order to consolidate the legitimacy of the Palestinian political leadership; calls on Israel to respect its obligations to allow these elections to take place in East Jerusalem; insists again that the European Union and the European Parliament must be authorised to observe these elections if invited;
11. Stresses that preserving the viability of the two-state solution in the constantly deteriorating situation on the ground in the occupied Palestinian territories must be an immediate priority for the European Union; calls for an immediate end to all unilateral Israeli actions which hinder or undermine the two-state solution, in particular the building and expansion of settlements, the demolition of Palestinian homes and infrastructure and the forcible displacement of Palestinian families from the occupied West Bank, including in East Jerusalem; reiterates that the EU will not recognise changes to the 1967 borders unless agreed by both parties; urges the EU and Member States to demand compensation for the demolition of all EU-funded infrastructure in the occupied Palestinian territories, as well as to collect the official demolition orders as possible evidence of war crimes;

12. Calls for the European Union to further develop its policy of differentiation between the territory of the State of Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories in its bilateral relations with Israel, in line with the relevant rulings of the Court of Justice of the European Union and UN Security Council Resolution 2334; insists that all EU agreements with Israel must unequivocally and explicitly indicate their inapplicability to the territory occupied by Israel in 1967; calls on the Commission to ensure that the principle of differentiation is consistently applied in the all aspects of the EU's bilateral relations with Israel; calls for the full and effective implementation of current EU legislation and bilateral arrangements applicable to Israeli settlement products;
13. Calls for the adoption of European Union legislation globally banning trade with Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories, in compliance with international humanitarian law; notes that trading in products produced in settlements in an occupied territory, or trading with an occupied territory, helps sustain violations of international humanitarian law and entrenches the human rights abuses that often stem from settlements, including the confiscation of land, exploitation of natural resources and the displacement of, or discrimination against, the local population;
14. Stresses the crucial importance of restoring a political horizon for the two-state solution; calls for a European Union political initiative aiming to resume the Middle East peace process in order to achieve tangible results and a negotiated final status agreement; urges the VP/HR to work promote an international conference as a first step in a multilateral framework towards this objective, in cooperation with the Member States, the United States and other international partners;
15. Calls for efficient use to be made of the European Union's economic and political leverage on both Israel and the Palestinians with the aim of generating genuine engagement in the Middle East peace process on both sides; calls, in the light of the lack of progress in the peace process and of actions undermining the two-state solution, for a revision of the EU's bilateral relations with both parties, including the Association Agreement with Israel and its implementation in the light of Article 2 thereof;
16. Supports the commitment by the European Union, endorsed in the Foreign Affairs Council conclusions of 16 December 2013, to offer an unprecedented package of political, economic and security support and a special privileged partnership to both parties as part of a final status agreement;
17. Welcomes the long-delayed disbursement of the European Union's 2021 funding to the Palestinian Authority in June 2022; deplores this delay caused by the repeated attempts by the Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement to introduce unjustified conditionality for this funding, which put the Palestinian Authority in an even more difficult situation and at risk of fiscal collapse;
18. Stresses the importance of trust-building between both sides, both on the political and people-to-people levels, as a necessary precondition for any successful peace process and peaceful coexistence between Israel and Palestine in the future; calls for enhanced European Union support for such initiatives;
19. Urges the Commission to increase its funding to projects aimed at improving the situation of the Palestinian Arab minority in Israel, which has the potential to play an

important role in the peaceful coexistence between Israelis and Palestinians in the future;

20. Urges the European Union to step up its political and financial support to civil society organisations, including joint Israeli-Palestinian initiatives, working for peace and protecting human rights on both sides; is deeply concerned about the shrinking space for civil society in Israel and in Palestine, and urges the EU to make this issue a priority on the agenda of its political dialogue with the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority; condemns the designation of leading Palestinian human rights organisations as ‘unlawful associations’ (terrorist organisations) by Israel; calls on the Israeli authorities to reverse this decision and to allow these organisations to continue their vital work; regrets the unjustifiably long suspension of EU funding to several of these organisations due to the decision of the Commissioner for Neighbourhood and Enlargement based on unsubstantiated allegations, which have caused severe operational and reputational damage to them; calls on the Commission to continue its financial support to the Palestinian non-governmental organisations;
21. Condemns Israel’s widespread policy and practice of holding hundreds of Palestinians in administrative detention without trial or charge based on secret evidence, including the human rights defender Salah Hammouri, and calls for an immediate end to this policy;
22. Strongly condemns the killing of journalist Shireen Abu Aqla during an Israeli military raid in Jenin in the occupied West Bank, which many independent inquiries attribute to Israeli forces;
23. Is appalled at the continued detention in solitary confinement of Ahmad Manasra despite his serious health condition, which may amount to torture; deeply regrets that calls for his release, including by European Union and United Nations experts, have gone unheeded; urges the Israeli authorities to reconsider their decision and to immediately release him;
24. Calls for an immediate end to all acts of incitement to hatred or violence by either side in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; urges the European Union to support and engage constructively with the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel, in particular with regard to its mandate to identify the underlying root causes of recurrent tensions, instability and the protracted nature of the conflict, and to take account of the mechanism’s findings and recommendations in the EU’s and Member States’ interactions with Israeli authorities;
25. Stresses again the importance of achieving lasting peace, stability and prosperity in the Middle East region; welcomes the European Union’s commitment to work together with its regional and international partners to achieve this end; recalls the importance of the Arab Peace Initiative in this regard;
26. Calls on the Israeli government to rescind its new restrictions on entry and residence of foreign citizens in the West Bank, put in place on 20 October 2022, which have an impact on Palestinian society and on European Union citizens, including visitors, spouses and family members, students and academics, and experts and volunteers;

highlights in this context the importance of the EU's principle of reciprocity for visa-free access;

27. Supports the International Criminal Court in its ongoing investigation of the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories and calls on the European Union to back the Court's involvement, as it does in other conflict situations around the world;
28. Reiterates its support to UNRWA, which provides essential services for the protection and human development of Palestinian refugees across the Middle East; calls for the European Union, the Member States and the international community to step up their political and financial support for the Agency, following the recent renewal of its mandate by the United Nations General Assembly;
29. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the EU Special Representative for the Middle East peace process, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Secretary-General of the UN, the Quartet Representative, the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, the President and the Congress of the United States of America, the Knesset and the Government of Israel, the President of the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian Legislative Council.