

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4104/06  
by André Laignel (PSE)  
to the Council

Subject: Financial and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian Authority

The Agreement announced by the President of the Palestinian Authority and Hamas on the formation of a national unity government consisting of Fatah and Hamas is a step towards relaunching an initiative for lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. In the interim, the 'national entente document' which will underpin that government constitutes implicit recognition by Hamas of Israel's right to exist.

Is it not vital, therefore, for the Council to allow the resumption of all financial and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people in order to foster a climate of confidence in the restoration of peace in the region?