

**Question for written answer E-3788/2010
to the Council
Rule 117
Emilio Menéndez del Valle (S&D)**

Subject: Could the EU foster a new initiative to restart the peace process between Israel and Palestine?

It is no secret that peace talks (much less negotiations) between Israel and Palestine have been on ice for quite some time.

On 9 May it was announced that indirect 'proximity talks' would resume (talks are to take place for the first time in 20 years between negotiators – or rather conversation partners – from both sides but who would not meet directly and speak via a US envoy).

This is a clear sign of mutual distrust, in particular on the side of the Palestinians who have witnessed the continuing colonial expansionist policies of Israel and the lack of an effective policy from the EU, the USA or indeed all four parties.

It is possible that talks could again break down as a result of Israeli intransigence on the subject of its settlements, among other topics.

Is the Council currently considering launching any relevant initiatives in this area?