

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0033/10
pursuant to Rule 115 of the Rules of Procedure
by Daniel Cohn-Bendit, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
to the Council

Subject: Kouchner and Moratinos' initiative to recognise the Palestinian State

On 22 February 2010, the Foreign Ministers Bernard Kouchner and Miguel Angel Moratinos called on the European Union to no longer simply insist on the necessary broad outlines of a final settlement in the Middle East, but to create real political prospects in the region by collectively recognising the Palestinian State before a peace agreement is concluded.

Today, the fact is that despite the failure of the Annapolis process and despite the Gaza conflict, the construction of the foundations of the Palestinian State has progressed thanks both to the reforms carried out by the Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad and to the international community's support through the International Donors' Conference for the Palestinian State. However, whilst the budgetary, security and institutional foundations of the Palestinian State are being put into place, the Palestinian State has yet to be given a political and international dimension. The ministers Kouchner and Moratinos therefore advocate recognition of the Palestinian State in accordance with the commitments given by the European Union in the past, most recently at the Foreign Affairs Council of 8 December 2009, in order to provide irreversible support to the peace process in the Middle East, with a narrow timeframe for negotiations and a genuine accompanying mechanism learning lessons from past errors.

1. What is the position of the High Representative/Commission Vice-President on this initiative proposing to recognise the Palestinian State in order to create a solid basis for restarting Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement negotiations?
2. How does she intend to make the European Union an incontrovertible and predominant actor in the Middle East which aims to prepare the ground for a stable, just and lasting peace process?
3. In view of the fact that the conclusions of the region's EU heads of mission on East Jerusalem were not formally endorsed by the Foreign Affairs Council of 8 December 2009, how does the High Representative intend to make them operational and effective in the coming months?

Tabled: 11.03.2010

Forwarded: 12.03.2010

Deadline for reply: 02.04.2010