

THE BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS

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PE - COURRIER EP - ENTRÉE
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11 November 2008

Dear President Pöttering

It is with concern that I write to you on behalf of the British Jewish Community. I have read several articles which have reported that the head of a recent EU Parliamentarian delegation, Mr. Kyriacos Triantaphyllides MEP, has invited Hamas members of the Palestinian Legislative Council to visit the European Parliament.

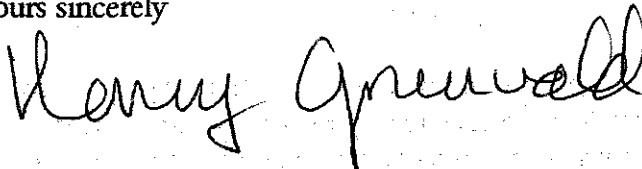
As I am sure you know, Hamas is classified by the EU, as well as the United States, as a terrorist organisation. It ran in the PLC elections while simultaneously maintaining an armed militia on the streets. When Hamas seized control of Gaza in a military coup in June 2007 and executed its political opponents, it abandoned any pretence at democratic legitimacy. The EU has stated that it will not work with Hamas until it renounces violence and recognises Israel, neither of which it has done. Therefore, it seems incomprehensible that the leaders of a terrorist organisation would be invited to visit the European Parliament, a key institution of the EU.

Jana Hybášková MEP, Chairwoman of the European Parliament's Delegation for Relations with Israel, has strongly condemned the incident, commenting that she considers "Kyriacos Triantaphyllides' position as very minor and isolated in the European Parliament and I am ashamed that it was presented as an official position of the European Parliament...".

It is clear that a Hamas visit to the European Parliament would be in breach of the principles of the EU and for this reason is unacceptable. I ask you to ensure that this invitation is withdrawn and that the visit will not take place, in order to maintain the integrity of the European Union.

I look forward to hearing from you soon,

Yours sincerely

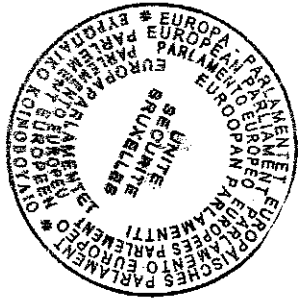


Henry Grunwald QC
President

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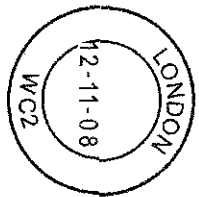
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