

Foreign Affairs

Buzek calls for re-launching of Middle East peace talks at meeting with Palestinian PM Salam Fayyad

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European Parliament President Jerzy Buzek met today Palestinian PM Salam Fayyad. Following the meeting, the President said:

"The wind of change blowing throughout the region provides a very good opportunity for Middle East peace talks.

Israeli and Palestinian leaders must seize the moment of change in the region for a historic peace agreement.

The objective is clear - a viable Palestinian state and a secure Israel - living side by side in peace and harmony.

I am calling for the re-launching of the peace talks. The European Parliament supports the two-state solution on the basis of the 1967 borders and the "land for peace" principle. There should be mutually agreed lands swaps and Jerusalem should be the capital of both states.

The European Parliament welcomes efforts by all leading Palestinian political forces to create a new government under the auspices of President Abbas. The new government must renounce violence, accepts Israel's right to exist and respects all previous accords.

We believe unilateral actions by both sides should be avoided. They could make future negotiations more difficult.

The EU is ready to support to future parliamentary and presidential elections in the Palestinian territory.

I paid tribute to PM Fayyad and his exceptional work on state and institution building. Under extremely difficult circumstances the West Bank has achieved remarkable economic growth of 9 %. Thanks to PM Fayyad's leadership, Palestinian institutions are ready to exercise key state functions.

Palestinians deserve to live in dignity, prosperity and security. Israeli deserves to live without fear for their safety.

Successful negotiations are in the Palestinian interest, Israeli interest, regional interest and global interest.

The peace makers will live forever in history."

Background:

The President of the European Parliament Jerzy Buzek is on an official visit to the Palestinian Territories and Israel from 12-15 June 2011.