

CHAPTER 31 CFSP SCREENING

MEPP

The EU's main objective in the Middle East is the achievement of lasting peace by means of a two-State solution leading to a final and comprehensive settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on implementation of the Road Map, with Israel and a democratic, viable, peaceful and sovereign Palestinian State living side-by-side within secure and recognised borders enjoying normal relations with their neighbours in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, 1397, 1402, and 1515 and on the principles of the Madrid Conference;

This includes a fair solution to the complex issue of Jerusalem and a just, viable, realistic and agreed solution to the problem of Palestinian refugees. It also includes a solution in the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Lebanese tracks.

The EU actively contributes to MEPP via:

1. EUSR, EU participation in the Quartet at Principals (EU represented by Presidency, HRSG, Commission) and Envoys level;
2. EU bilateral relations with Israel and the PA:
 - Association Agreement with Israel entered into force 2000.
 - Interim Association Agreement with the Palestinian Authority (on behalf of the PLO) entered into force 1997.
 - EU/Israel and EU/PA ENP Action Plans adopted in 2005.
3. Regional dialogue:
 - Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (Barcelona Process).
4. Political dialogue:
 - with key partners: ASEAN, China, EEA, Japan, Russia, Turkey, US etc...
5. Confidence-building measures:
 - electoral observation activities.
 - trilateral policy dialogues (Israel/PA/COM) on energy, trade, transport.
 - EU Partnership for Peace programme to bring together civil society actors.
6. Assistance/capacity building:

- Temporary International Mechanism (direct assistance to the PA currently suspended), but objective in normal times is to promote Palestinian economic, social, political and security sector reforms.
 - Humanitarian assistance to refugees via ECHO and UNRWA.
7. ESDP missions funded by the Community: EUBAM Rafah and EUPOL COPPS.

Key documents/legislation

1. EU declarations (NB Council conclusions most months!):
 - The Venice declaration of 13 June 1980.
 - The Berlin declaration of 24 March 1999.
 - The Seville declaration of 22 June 2002.
2. Common Strategy of the European Council on the Mediterranean Region: OJ L183/5 of 22 July 2000.
3. Joint Actions:
 - EUSR MEPP Council Joint Action of 20 February 2006 extending the mandate of the EUSR: OJ L49/8 of 21.2.2006
 - EUPOLCOPPS – EU police mission in the Palestinian territories. Council Joint Action 2005/797/CFSP of 14 November 2005: OJ L 300/65 of 17.11.2005 – contribute to the establishment of sustainable and effective policing arrangements under Palestinian ownership in accordance with best international standards, the Community’s institution-building programmes as well as other international SSR efforts.
 - EU BAM RAFAH – Council Joint Action 2005/889/CFSP of 12 December 2005 establishing the BAM at Rafah: OJ L 327/28 of 14.12.2005.
4. Legislation on terrorism:
 - Regulation (EC) No 2580/2001 on specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities with a view to combating terrorism.
 - Hamas as a group (including Hamas-Izz al-Din al-Qassem) was added to the ‘terrorist list’ in the Council common position of 12 September 2003: OJ L 229/42 of 12.9.2003. Impacts on EU contacts policy vis-à-vis Hamas (in context of the current PA government): non-paper on contacts and visas endorsed by PSC on 23 June.

- Many other groups are also included on the list: PFLP, Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade etc.

5. Additional relevant legislation:

- Council common position 2002/400 CFSP of 21 May 2002 on the temporary reception by MS of the EU of certain Palestinians.
- Under preparation: Council Common Position on Lebanon arms exports, in the context of UNSC Resolution 1701.

GCC

The countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council are of strategic importance to the EU, in the context of the Middle East Peace Process as well as highly political issues such as counter-terrorism and security of energy supply.

Cooperation Agreement signed in 1989 between the European Community and the GCC as regional grouping, with the objective to strengthen stability in a region of strategic importance and to facilitate political and economic relations. Annual Ministerial meeting held between EU and GCC foreign ministers, as well as between senior officials in a Joint Co-operation Committee. Working groups have been established on energy and the economy.

The 1989 Co-operation Agreement also contains a commitment from both sides to enter into negotiations on an FTA. Negotiations were initiated in 1990. We aim to conclude in the near future. COM is seeking to enhance other co-operation activities including in support of the region's domestic reform efforts including areas such as education or human rights.