



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Cabinet of President J.M. Barroso

Fernando Andresen Guimarães
Member of Cabinet

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Mr Pierre GALAND

Russell Tribunal on Palestine

Email: trp_int@yahoo.com

Dear Mr Galand,

The President of the European Commission, Mr José Manuel Barroso, has asked me to thank you for your letter of 20 January about the activities of the Russell Tribunal on Palestine.

The European Union (EU) consistently supports all efforts aimed at achieving peace in the region through negotiations. Its main objective remains the creation of an independent, democratic, contiguous and viable Palestinian state, living side by side in peace with Israel.

The EU outlined its position on the Middle East Peace Process in the Foreign Affairs Council Conclusions of 8 December 2009. Among other things, the Council reiterated its support for negotiations leading to Palestinian statehood, and its readiness, when appropriate, to recognise a Palestinian state. The Council stated that the demolition of homes and evictions are illegal under international law, constitute an obstacle to peace and threaten to make a two-state solution impossible. The Council urged the government of Israel to end all settlement activities immediately, in East Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank and including natural growth, and to dismantle all outposts erected since March 2001. The EU reiterated its calls for an immediate, sustained and unconditional opening of crossings for the flow of humanitarian aid, commercial goods and persons to and from Gaza.

These conclusions are available on the following website:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/111829.pdf

With respect to the EU actions on the Middle East Peace Process, and its relations with the Palestinian Authority and Israel, more information and the texts of previous Council conclusions are available on: http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/mepp/index_en.htm

May I wish you well in the proceedings of your conference.

Yours sincerely,



Fernando ANDRESEN GUIMARÃES