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Russell Tribunal on Palestine  
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SUBJECT **Middle East Peace Process, your letter dated January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010**  
ATTACH. EU Council conclusions, Middle East Peace Process, December 8,  
2009  
GZ 310.10 (please quote when responding)

February 15, 2010

Dear Mr Galand,

Thank you very much for your letter to Federal Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle, who has asked me to reply to you.

Peace and stability in the Middle East are among Germany's and Europe's political priorities. The German Federal government is convinced that there's no alternative to a two-state solution, with the State of Israel and an independent, democratic, contiguous and viable State of Palestine, living side by side in peace and security.

In order to enable a resumption of comprehensive peace negotiations, Germany and its European partners urge both parties to the conflict to fulfil their roadmap obligations. In the latest Council conclusions on the Middle East peace process of December 8, 2009, the EU remained true to its well-known positions concerning future borders, the issue of Jerusalem and settlement construction. All these positions reflect the underlying goal of a two-state solution and the EU's respect for international law. The EU has reaffirmed that it doesn't recognize the annexation of East-Jerusalem and has underscored the necessity to deal with all final status issues in the framework of comprehensive negotiations. Germany and its European partners have underlined that settlements, the separation barrier where

built on occupied land, demolition of homes and evictions are illegal under international law, constitute an obstacle to peace and threaten to make a two-state solution impossible. They have urged the government of Israel to immediately end all settlement activities and to dismantle all outposts erected since March 2001.

Germany and the EU have also repeatedly called on Israel to open the border-crossings to Gaza and to enable a regular flow of humanitarian aid, commercial goods and persons to and from Gaza. Concerted efforts for Gaza started immediately after the beginning of the operation „Cast Lead“, took detailed form in the EU's Action Plan for Gaza of January 27, and continue to this day.

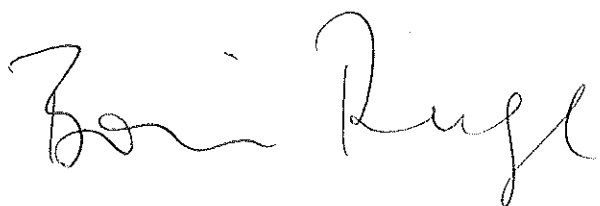
During the operation „Cast Lead“, the European Commission and Israel agreed to temporarily suspend technical meetings meant to further deepen EU-Israel relations. But the Federal Foreign government remains convinced that in general, the EU's influence on developments in the region is best served by further developing the EU's relations with both Israel and the Palestinian Territories.

On a bilateral basis, the Federal Foreign government has undertaken numerous initiatives in order to improve the quality of life of the Palestinian population and to contribute to Palestinian state building. In addition to its bilateral development funding, Germany has pledged 150 million Euros for Gaza at the International Donor Conference in Sharm El Sheikh in March 2009. Most of our support for Gaza is channelled via UNRWA.

Only a meaningful political process with the goal of a two-state-solution will bring sustainable peace to this region. The German Federal government and its partners in the EU and the Middle East Quartett will continue to pursue this vision.

For ease of reference, I attach the December Council conclusions mentioned above.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank-Rudolf Schulz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "F".