

ECCP
EUROPEAN COORDINATION OF COMMITTEES AND ASSOCIATIONS
FOR PALESTINE

Brussels, February 15, 2007

To: The German Chancellor and President in Office of the European Council, Ms. Angela Merkel
The High Representative of the European Union for the CFSP, Mr. Javier Solana

Dear President,
Dear High Representative,

In view of the meeting of the Quartet members in Berlin, February, 21 in order to consider the new development after the Palestinian agreement to form the Palestinian Unity Government, the *European Coordination of Committees and Associations for Palestine* would like to make recommendations aimed at increasing the involvement of the European Union within the Quartet for the end of the sanctions adopted against the Palestinian people.

Last year, after the Palestinian elections, the Quartet and the European Union decided the suspension of the aid to the Palestinian Authority. The outcome of this decision is catastrophic. It causes extra problems for the Palestinian civilian population, whose living conditions have continued to deteriorate ever more sharply since 2000 and drives the Palestinian Territories into a major humanitarian crisis. By this decision, the Palestinian people are being punished for their democratic election choice while the violations of international humanitarian law by Israel are not challenged at all.

Now the time has come to reconsider this decision. In Mecca, Fatah and Hamas have signed an agreement on preventing Palestinian violence and establishing a national unity government. Mahmoud Abbas has received at the Mecca Conference the backing of all the Palestinians factions to conduct the negotiations with the Israeli government.

At the Quartet meeting in Berlin, at stake will be the assertion by the Quartet and above all by the European Union of their support to the new Palestinian Unity Government and of the resumption of the aid to the Palestinian Authority.

For all these reasons, ECCP strongly urges that you take the opportunity of this meeting to affirm that the European Union will:

- Stop the collective punishment of the Palestinian people and resume the aid to the Palestinian Authority;
- Take effective measures by suspending the EU-Israel Association agreement in order to force Israel to withdraw from the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, dismantle all its settlements in the West Bank and in East Jerusalem and its Wall built inside the West Bank and East Jerusalem.
- Act for the resumption of negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis through an international conference on the Middle East which will aim the creation of a viable and independent Palestinian State within the 1967 "borders" with East Jerusalem as its capital, living side by side with Israel.

We wish that the concerns expressed above would receive your attention.

Yours faithfully,
Pierre Galand, Belgian Senator
ECCP President

