# Resolution on the situation in Palestine

2011/2828(RSP) - 29/09/2011 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Following the debate which was held on 27 September 2011, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the situation on Palestine.

The resolution had been tabled by the EPP, S&D, Greens/EFA, ALDE and GUE/NGL groups.

Members recall that Mahmoud Abbas, the President of the Palestinian National Authority, asked for recognition of Palestinian statehood and membership of the UN at the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, where it is currently a non-member permanent observer entity. They call on the High Representative/Vice-President of the Commission and the governments of EU Member States **to continue their efforts to find a common EU position** on the request by the Palestinian Authority for UN membership, and to avoid divisions among Member States. They note that at the informal meeting on 2 and 3 September 2011 Ministers of Foreign Affairs of EU Member States presented different positions when discussing the Middle East peace process and the relevant diplomatic initiatives envisaged during the September Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Parliament want the **EU and its Member States to continue to play a more active role** in the efforts aimed at achieving a just and lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians. It stresses **the central role of the Quartet** and fully supports the High Representative in her efforts for the Quartet to create a credible perspective for the re-launching of the peace process.

Parliament supports and calls on Member States to be united in addressing the **legitimate demand of the Palestinians to be represented as a state** at the United Nations as a result of negotiations to be concluded during the current 66th session of the UN General Assembly. At the same time, it calls on the international community, including the EU and its Member States, to reconfirm their strong commitment to the **security of the State of Israel**. Members stress again that peaceful and non-violent means are the only way to achieve a sustainable solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;

Recalling both UN General Assembly Resolution 181 of 29 November 1947calling for the creation of two states on the territory of the former Mandate for Palestine, and the EU's repeated support for the two-state solution, Parliament reiterates its **strong support for the two-state solution on the basis of the 1967 borders with Jerusalem as capital of both states,** with the State of Israel and an independent, democratic, contiguous and viable State of Palestine living side by side in peace and security. Parliament notes too, that according to assessments of the World Bank, the IMF and the UN, the **Palestinian Authority is above the threshold for a functioning state** in the key sectors they studied, and Palestinian institutions compare favourably with those in established states. It welcomes the success of state-building efforts by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Prime Minister Salam Fayyad, which have been supported by the EU and endorsed by various international actors.

The resolution stresses that **direct negotiations** leading to a two-state solution between Israelis and Palestinians should be resumed without delay and according to the deadlines called for by the Quartet, in order to overcome the unacceptable status quo. All steps that may undermine the prospects of a negotiated agreement should be avoided and **no changes to the pre-1967 borders, including with regard to Jerusalem**, other than those agreed by the parties should be accepted. Members insist on the fact that any resulting resolution should not affect the dignity of either side. They call on the **Israeli Government to stop all construction and extension of settlements** in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. At the same time, they call for a **cessation of rocket attacks on Israel from the Gaza Strip** and insist on the need for a permanent truce.