

From: למען ישראל Legal Forum for Israel
[mailto:office@haforum.org.il]
Sent: 16 December 2014 09:38
Subject: Premature Recognition of Palestinian
Statehood – Incentivizes Instability

Dear MEP,

We, the undersigned, a coalition of organizations representing Israeli civil society, appeal to you to weigh your influence and authority in the European Parliament, in an effort to prevent the adoption of the proposed resolution supporting a unilaterally declared Palestinian state.

Below is an alternative text, which in our belief, better corresponds with European values and interests to bring peace and stability.

Our reasoning is as follows:

1. A Palestinian state must only be formed through negotiations and a sustainable peace agreement with Israel. Europe's involvement seeks to bring peace and reconciliation between the Arab world and Israel. A Palestinian state should be a result of such negotiations, not the goal. Furthermore, such premature recognition ignores complexities in the Israeli-Palestinian relations that could only be addressed via the negotiating table, primarily issues of security and mutual recognition, prior to the recognition of a Palestinian state.

2. The Parliament should avoid adopting a resolution that will encourage or reward violence. Hamas is an EU designated terror organization that inherently and publically rejects any peaceful solution to the conflict, has control over the Gaza Strip and gaining increasing power in the Palestinian Authority territories, while the Palestinian Authority supports violence and incites against

Israel and Jews. Palestinian children are indoctrinated to such violence in schools. The EU must uphold its values and condition the recognition of "Palestine" on the abandonment of violence. A Palestinian state that will not embrace peace and democracy will be a major destabilizing factor in the region.

3. A unilateral recognition without due security arrangements would leave the state of Israel exposed to exponential threats. Such recognition has a real potential to derail the Middle-East peace process entirely, destroying existing coordination mechanisms, further distancing peace and aggravating the violence between Palestinians and Israelis.

4. Irresponsible international involvement will facilitate the extreme elements within the Palestinian population, making it worth their while to continue with the cycle of terrorism and violence. The best interest of the Palestinian people will certainly be served by making peace and negotiation the only viable way for their leaders to pursue.

5. A premature recognition of Palestinian statehood will not encourage the Palestinians to make the required compromises for peace, it will rather be abused by the Palestinian leadership to further play a "zero-sum game". Their endeavors represent a cynical abuse of the European Union's values and profound desire to bring an end to the conflict and bloodshed in the region. Its aim is to by-pass the negotiation process through deceptive methods. Any agreement or recognition must be conditioned with the termination of violence, recognition of Israel's right to exist, and a clear statement denying all future claims and the embracement of peace.

Our proposed version:

"The European Parliament calls on parliaments of EU Member States and the VP/HR to promote a negotiated

resolution of the Israeli Palestinian conflict via the implementation of a culture of peace through legislation by both parties, the cessation of all terrorist activity, normalization and regional cooperation, and the recognition of Israel's right to exist.

Sincerely yours,
The undersigned

The Inter Parliamentary Coalition for Global Ethics

The Legal Forum for Israel

Im Tirzu

Zionist Foundation for Israel

Israel-Europe Freedom Center (IEFC)

The Israeli Jewish Congress