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**PRESS INFORMATION**

**Javier SOLANA,  
EU High Representative for the CFSP,  
to visit the Middle East**

**10-14 July 2005**

Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), will visit the Middle East between Sunday, 10 July, and Thursday, 14 July, 2005. The visit will underscore the EU's political engagement in the region, in particular in view of the forthcoming Israeli disengagement from the Gaza Strip and from localities in the northern part of the West Bank.

The trip will start in Egypt on Sunday, 10 July, and will continue to Israel later during the day. Mr. Solana will spend the 11 and 12 July in Israel and proceed to the Palestinian territories on 13 and 14 July.

In Egypt, Javier Solana will pay a call on President Hosni MUBARAK. He will meet, among others with Foreign Minister Ahmed ABUL GHEIT and Amr MOUSSA, Secretary-General of the Arab League.

In Israel, Mr Solana will hold meetings with Prime Minister Ariel SHARON, Foreign Minister Silvan SHALOM, Defence Minister Shaul MOFAZ and other members of the government and political figures.

In the West Bank, the High Representative will meet Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud ABBAS, Prime Minister Ahmed QUREI and Foreign Minister Nasser AL-QIDWA. He will attend two events to mark the delivery of equipment to Palestinian police under a programme co-ordinated by the *European Union Co-ordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support (EU COPPS)*.

In Gaza, Javier Solana will meet Karen KÖNING ABU ZAYD, the newly appointed Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, and visit one of the Agency's installations.

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➤ *enclosed: EU COPPS Fact Sheet*

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# EU COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

## ~FACTSHEET~

PAL/02 (update 2)  
8 July 2005

### EU Assistance to the Palestinian Civil Police

An exchange of letters on **20 April 2005** between Ahmed Qurei, Palestinian Prime Minister, and Marc Otte, EU Special Representative (EUSR) to the Middle East Peace Process, led to the creation of the *European Union Co-ordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support (EU COPPS)*.

Various factors have contributed to the creation of EU COPPS, *inter alia*:

- The **recognition** that support to the Palestinian civil police has the potential to contribute to improving the lives of the Palestinian people by reducing crime and insecurity and helping create the conditions for economic recovery, as well and to assist the PA in meeting Roadmap commitments to consolidate its security services and to reform its institutions;
- the **Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and parts of the West Bank** from mid-August 2005 intensifies the need for more effective civil policing in areas that will fall under PA purview;
- The **European Council declaration** stating its “*readiness to support the Palestinian Authority in taking responsibility for law and order, and in particular, in improving its civil police and law enforcement capacity*” (European Council Conclusions, 17-18 June 2004). EUSR Marc Otte, has been tasked with providing such practical assistance. These efforts are part of a short-term action programme in the fields of security, reforms, elections and economy proposed by EU High Representative Javier Solana and endorsed by the European Council in November 2004.

Established within the office of the EUSR, EU COPPS coordinates Member State and, where requested, other donor funding and is supported by the EU Police Unit in Brussels. It currently consists of **four EU Police experts** headed by Chief Superintendent, Jonathan McIvor, who have been deployed to the region since the beginning of January 2005 as well as two locally recruited administrative staff. It is based in the building of the Palestinian Interior Ministry in Ramallah with a satellite office in Gaza City.

The **role of the Office** is to provide support both for immediate *operational* priorities, and longer-term *transformational* change management, by:

- advising the Palestinian Chief of Police, his senior commanders and the Minister of Interior;
- liaising with stakeholders;
- co-ordinating assistance and monitoring progress.

**P R E S S**

A *Palestinian Civil Police Development Programme (PCPDP)* has recently been produced cooperatively by the Civil Police and EU COPPS and will soon be available in Arabic. The 3-year Programme consists of both Transformational and Operational Plans which lay the basis for the urgent delivery of badly needed equipment and training that will enable the police to patrol the streets effectively and deliver better services to the Palestinian people as well as fundamental organizational change. Objectives include maintaining safety and security for all citizens, reducing crime and the fear of crime, and securing public confidence in the rule of law and the police. Physical needs include vehicles, communications equipment, office equipment, and infrastructure repair. The PCPDP will serve as a blueprint for building a **modern, democratic and accountable police service** and as a **framework for donor assistance**.

**Spain, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Denmark** are the EU Member States currently providing financial assistance, training and specialized equipment under EU COPPS. Norway is co-funding a Police Communications Project with Denmark to enhance communications capacity in Gaza and build new infrastructure in the West Bank. Italy has provided funding for a Drug Control project managed by the UN and incorporated within the PCPDP. Discussions continue with other Member States and non-EU donors in order to determine where and how donors can support the PCPDP. Close cooperation is maintained with the United States and its Ward Mission.

As far as **transformational progress** is concerned, the first priority is to establish a Palestinian Change Management Team (CMT) to drive the PCPDP. The CMT and Senior Managers will receive training over the summer 2005. An audit of prisons and the Palestinian detention system is slated for August. Another area of immediate focus is a review of the legislative framework and current proposals for overarching legislation for the security sector.

**Operational progress** is well underway. So far, EU COPPS has delivered four Explosive Ordnance Disposal (bomb disposal) vehicles to Gaza and the West Bank, a number of Small Projects such as the provision of computers, communications equipment, handcuffs, reflective jackets, search equipment. Public order equipment and additional police vehicles are expected to be in place prior to Israeli disengagement in mid-summer. An audit of the communication infrastructure in Gaza and the West Bank was carried out in April 2005 and has resulted in the *Police Communications Project* referred to earlier. EU COPPS is also co-ordinating the refurbishment of the Jericho Police Training Centre.

In the **medium-term**, there is a need to help the police develop a policing strategy as well as the necessary implementing structures and management capacity. This needs to be closely co-ordinated with the implementation of the PA's Roadmap commitments on security.

Such efforts will take time and require a **long-term donor commitment**. EU COPPS will seek **complementarity** with support for reform efforts in the wider criminal justice system. Co-ordination with the EU's Quartet partners as well as with other actors in the security area, notably Egypt, is also sought.

Meetings continue to be held with **donor community members** and **third parties** who have expressed an interest in the work of EU COPPS. An expanded EU role in police reform and development is being considered, building on the experience gained by the EU in the field of civil crisis management in different regions (such as the Balkans) and much will depend upon developments on the ground.