



Brussels, 9 November 2005
S356/05

PRESS INFORMATION

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

11-15 November 2005

Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), will visit the Middle East between Friday, 11 November, and Tuesday, 15 November 2005. The visit will underscore the EU's firm political engagement in the region as a whole.

The trip starts in Lebanon on Friday, 11 November, and proceeds to Bahrein in the afternoon. Mr. Solana departs for Egypt on 12 November. He travels to Jordan and Israel on 13 November. On 14 November, he will visit the West Bank. The trip ends in Israel on 15 November.

In Lebanon, Mr. Solana will have a working lunch with Prime Minister Fuad SINIORA. While in Bahrein, he will intervene in a dinner discussion for Foreign Ministers from countries of the G8 and the Middle East and North Africa participating in the *Forum for the Future*. He will also hold a series of bilateral meetings on the fringes of the Forum with various counterparts from the region.

In Egypt, the EU High Representative will meet with President Hosni MUBARAK and Foreign Minister ABDUL GHEIT. During a short stay in Jordan, the EU High Representative will pay a call on His Majesty King ABDALLAH II.

In Israel, Mr Solana will attend the launching of a book by journalist, Henrique Cymerman, in a ceremony presided over by Israeli President Moshe KATSAV. He will hold meetings with Prime Minister Ariel SHARON and other senior members of the Israeli cabinet and will attend the official commemorations of the 10th anniversary since the assassination of former Israeli Premier Yitshak RABIN. On 15 November, the High Representative will deliver an opening address at the Rabin international conference organised at the Netanya Academic College.

In the West Bank, Mr. Solana will meet with Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud ABBAS and Prime Minister Ahmed QUREI. Following the request by Israel and the PA and the Council's positive response, Mr. Solana will continue discussions on a EU third-party role at the Rafah Crossing Point in Gaza. During this part of the visit, the High Representative will also take stock of the European efforts in the reform and strengthening of Palestinian security and police structures. On 1 January 2006, a new ESDP Police Mission will be launched in the Palestinian Territories, building on the work of *EU COPPS* (EU Co-ordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support). This mission, which will have a three-year mandate, will be the most significant one deployed so far by the EU in the Middle East.

Press officer accompanying HR Javier Solana on this mission: Elena Peresso (+32 477 772049)

Encl. EUPOL COPPS Fact Sheet

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

Cristina Gallach - Spokesperson of the Secretary General, High Representative for CFSP

☎ +32 (0)2 285 6467 / 8239 /

5150 / 5151 ☏ +32 (0)2 285 5694

internet: <http://ue.eu.int/solana> - e-mail: presse.cabinet@consilium.eu.int



EU COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

~FACTSHEET~

EUPOL-COPPS/01
November 2005

European Union Police Mission for the Palestinian Territories (EUPOL-COPPS)

The European Union is preparing an "EU Police Mission for the Palestinian Territories" due to start on 1 January 2006. Code-named EUPOL-COPPS, this Mission will support the Palestinian Authority in establishing sustainable and effective policing arrangements.

Aims and Scope of EUPOL-COPPS

EUPOL-COPPS will be a civilian mission in the framework of the **European Security and Defence Policy** (ESDP).

EUPOL-COPPS will aim at contributing to the establishment of sustainable and effective policing arrangements under Palestinian ownership in accordance with best international standards. More specifically the tasks of the new Mission are as follows:

- Assist the Palestinian Civil Police in implementation of the Police Development Programme by advising and closely mentoring the Palestinian Civil Police, and specifically senior officials at District, Headquarters and Ministerial level;
- Co-ordinate and facilitate EU Member State assistance, and - where requested - international assistance to the Palestinian Civil Police;
- Advise on police-related Criminal Justice elements.

The new Mission will act in close co-operation with the European Community's institution building programmes as well as other international efforts in the security sector including criminal justice reform.

EUPOL-COPPS will be set in the wider context of the international community's effort to support the Palestinian Authority in taking responsibility for law and order, and in particular, in improving its civil police and law enforcement capacity. Close co-ordination between the Mission and other international actors involved in security assistance, including the US Security Coordinator, as well as those providing support to the Ministry of Interior, will be ensured.

P R E S S

EUPOL-COPPS will build on the work of the EU Co-ordination Office for Palestinian Police Support (EU COPPS)¹.

Size, Structure and Budget of the Mission

- EUPOL-COPPS will include approximately 33 unarmed personnel mainly seconded from EU Member States². The Mission personnel will not have executive powers.
- The operational phase of the Mission will begin on 1 January 2006. EUPOL-COPPS will have an initial duration of 3 years.
- The financial reference amount intended to cover the expenditure related to the Mission until the end of 2006 will be 6.1 million euros (common costs).

Political control

- The EU's Political and Security Committee will exercise, under the responsibility of the EU Council, the political control and strategic direction of the Mission. High Representative Javier Solana will give guidance to the Head of Mission through the EU Special Representative for the MEPP.

Background

- At the European Council of 17 and 18 June 2004, EU leaders reaffirmed the readiness of the EU to support the Palestinian Authority in taking responsibility for law and order, and in particular, in improving its civil police and law enforcement capacity.
- In July 2005, EU foreign ministers reiterated the EU's commitment to contributing to the development of Palestinian security capacity through the Palestinian Civil Police, in co-ordination with the US Security Co-ordinator. They also agreed in principle that EU support to the Palestinian Civil Police should take the form of an ESDP mission building on the work of the EU Co-ordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support in cooperation with all parties concerned.
- The EU is the **largest donor** to the Palestinians.
- The EU has been at the forefront of **efforts for peace in the Middle East**, and is an active member of the Quartet alongside its partners the US, Russia and the UN. Resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict is a strategic priority for Europe³. Accordingly, the EU is a facilitator in the Middle East Peace Process, notably through regular meetings with the main actors involved; visits to the Near East by EU leaders and the activities of the EU High Representative Javier Solana, as well as the EU Special Representative for the Peace Process, Ambassador Marc Otte.

¹ EU COPPS was established in January 2005 within the office of the EU Special Representative (EUSR) to the Middle East Process, Marc Otte. It aims at assisting the Palestinian Authority in developing a modern and effective civil police service.

² A number of third countries will also be invited to contribute to the Mission.

³ See "*A Secure Europe in a Better World: The European Security Strategy*", approved by the European Council on 12 December 2003.