



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the settlement activities of Israel

The European Union condemns Israel's planned settlement construction in the vicinity of the Adam settlement in the West Bank. If built, this will constitute a new settlement block.

The European Union urgently calls on Israel to reconsider the settlement's planned construction, which would be in violation of international law; run counter to the Roadmap; and is against commitments made by Israel to the Palestinians and the international community last year in Annapolis.

According to our reports the number of newly built structures in 2008 amounted to 1257, including 748 permanent buildings and 509 mobile structures.

Settlement activity is a major obstacle to peace in the Middle East and to the efforts of the international community to advance the Middle East Peace Process. As the European Union has consistently made clear, there can be no sustainable peace in the Middle East without the creation of a viable Palestinian state. Continued settlement activity severely damages this prospect.

P R E S S

Settlement activity undermines all the efforts of Arab Partners committed to a peaceful resolution of the conflict and calls into question the seriousness of Israel's commitment to the two-state solution.

The Candidate Countries Turkey and Croatia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and Armenia align themselves with this declaration.

* Croatia continues to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.
