

PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY



Decision of 2.6.1997
[OJ L 187/1 of 16.7.1997](#)

Art. 52
[OJ L 187/13](#)

II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COUNCIL

COUNCIL DECISION

of 2 June 1997

concerning the conclusion of the Euro-Mediterranean Interim Association Agreement on trade and cooperation between the European Community, of the one part, and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) for the benefit of the Palestinian Authority of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip

(97/430/EC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 113 and Article 130y, in conjunction with the first sentence of Article 228 (2) and the second subparagraph of Article 228 (3) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal of the Commission⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to the Assent of the European Parliament⁽²⁾,

Whereas, under Article 130u of the Treaty, Community policy in the sphere of development cooperation should foster the sustainable economic and social development of the developing countries, their smooth and gradual integration into the world economy and the campaign against poverty in those countries;

Whereas this Euro-Mediterranean Interim Association Agreement on trade and cooperation between the European Community, of the one part, and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) for the benefit of the Palestinian Authority of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, of the other part, signed in Brussels on 24 February

1997 will serve to consolidate ties between the Palestinians and the European Union in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership and pave the way for the commencement of negotiations with a view to concluding a Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreement,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The Euro-Mediterranean Interim Association Agreement on trade and cooperation between the European Community, of the one part, and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) for the benefit of the Palestinian Authority of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, of the other part, together with its Annexes, Protocols, the Exchange of Letters and Declarations is hereby approved on behalf of the Community.

The texts of the acts referred to in the first paragraph are attached to this Decision.

Article 2

The President of the Council shall give the notification provided for in Article 75 of the Interim Agreement on behalf of the Community.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 128, 24. 4. 1997, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 132, 28. 4. 1997.

Article 3

The Commission, assisted by the representatives of the Member States, shall represent the Community in the Joint Committee established under Article 63 of the Interim Agreement.

For the purposes of the second subparagraph of Article 63 (1) of the said Agreement, the position of the Community in the Joint Committee shall be adopted by the Council, acting on a proposal from the

Commission, on each occasion in accordance with the corresponding provisions of the Treaty establishing the European Community.

Done at Luxembourg, 2 June 1997.

For the Council
The President
H. VAN MIERLO

EURO-MEDITERRANEAN INTERIM ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT

on trade and cooperation between the European Community, of the one part, and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) for the benefit of the Palestinian Authority of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, of the other part

The EUROPEAN COMMUNITY,

hereinafter referred to as 'the Community',

of the one part,

and the PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO) FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY OF THE WEST BANK AND THE GAZA STRIP, hereinafter referred to as 'the Palestinian Authority',

of the other part,

CONSIDERING the importance of the existing links between the Community and the Palestinian people of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and the common values that they share,

CONSIDERING that the Community and the PLO wish to strengthen those links and to establish lasting relations based on partnership and reciprocity,

CONSIDERING the importance which the Parties attach to the principles of the United Nations Charter, particularly the observance of human rights, democratic principles and political and economic freedoms which form the very basis of their relations,

DESIROUS of strengthening the framework of relations between the European Community and the Middle East, and of regional economic integration of the Middle Eastern countries as an objective to be achieved as soon as conditions permit,

CONSIDERING the difference in economic and social development existing between the Parties and the need to intensify existing efforts to promote economic and social development in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip,

DESIROUS of establishing a cooperation, supported by a regular dialogue, on economic, cultural, scientific and educational matters with a view to improving mutual knowledge and understanding,

CONSIDERING the commitment of the Parties to free trade, and in particular to compliance with the provisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade of 1994,

DESIROUS of building on the existing autonomous trade arrangements between the Parties and placing them on a contractual and reciprocal basis,

CONVINCED of the need to promote the creation of a new climate for their economic relations in order to improve the environment for investment flows,

CONSIDERING the rights and obligations of the parties under the international agreements which they have signed,

CONVINCED that the full participation of the Palestinian Authority in the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership launched at the Barcelona Conference is an important step in the normalization of relations between the Parties, which should be reflected in an Agreement on an interim basis at the present stage,

AWARE of the major political significance of the holding of Palestinian elections on 20 January 1996 for the process leading to a permanent settlement based on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338,

RECOGNIZING that this Agreement should be replaced by a Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreement as soon as conditions permit,

- support for the modernization and development of energy networks and for their link-up to Community networks.

Article 49

Scientific and technological cooperation

The Parties will endeavour to promote cooperation on scientific and technological development.

The aim of cooperation shall be to:

- (a) encourage the establishment of permanent links between the Parties' scientific communities, notably by means of:
 - providing Palestinian institutions with access to Community research and technological development programmes in accordance with Community rules governing non-Community countries' involvement in such programmes,
 - Palestinian participation in networks of decentralized cooperation,
 - promoting synergy in training and research;
- (b) improve Palestinian research capabilities;
- (c) stimulate technological innovation and the transfer of new technology and know-how;
- (d) encourage all activities aimed at establishing synergy at regional level.

Article 50

Environment

The objectives of cooperation will be to prevent deterioration of the environment, to control pollution, to protect human health and to ensure the rational use of natural resources with a view to promoting sustainable development.

It will place priority on matters relating to: desertification, water resource management, salinization, the impact of agriculture on soil and water quality, the appropriate use of energy, the impact of industrial development in general and the safety of industrial plant in particular, waste management, the integrated management of sensitive areas, the quality of sea water and the control and prevention of marine pollution, and environmental education and awareness.

Cooperation shall be fostered by the use of advanced tools of environmental management, environmental monitoring methods, and surveillance, including the use of environmental information systems (EIS) and environmental impact assessment (EIA).

Article 51

Tourism

Priorities for cooperation shall be:

- promoting investments in tourism,
- improving the knowledge of the tourist industry and ensuring greater consistency of policies affecting tourism,
- promoting a good seasonal spread of tourism,
- promoting cooperation between regions and cities of neighbouring countries,
- highlighting the importance of the cultural heritage for tourism,
- making tourism more competitive through support for increased professionalism ensuring the balanced and sustainable development of tourism.

Article 52

Customs cooperation

Customs cooperation is intended to ensure that the provisions on trade are observed and to guarantee fair trading.

It could give rise to the following types of cooperation:

- various forms of exchange of information and training schemes,
- simplification of controls and procedures concerning the customs clearance of goods,
- introduction of the single administrative document and a system to link up the Community's and the Palestinian Authority's transit arrangements, and
- technical assistance provided by experts from the Community.

Without prejudice to other forms of cooperation provided for in this Agreement, the administrative authorities of the Parties will provide each other with mutual assistance on customs matters.

Article 53

Cooperation on statistics

The main objective of cooperation in this domain should aim to ensure the comparability and usefulness of statistics on foreign trade, finance and balance of payments, population, migration, transport and communications, and generally all the fields which are covered by this Agreement and lend themselves to the establishment of statistics.