



Visit of José Manuel Barroso to the occupied Palestinian territory: joint press conference by José Manuel Barroso and Mahmoud Abbas

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On 8 July 2012, José Manuel Barroso, President of the EC, paid a visit to Mahmoud Abbas, President of the Palestinian Authority. During this visit, the President of the EC made clear that the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict remained a strategic priority for the EU. He also expressed the EU's strong commitment to a two-state solution. After their meeting, the Officials held a joint press conference.

[Only the original language version is authentic and it prevails in the event of its differing from the translated versions.](#)

TIME	DESCRIPTION	DURATION
10:00:00	Joint arrival of José Manuel Barroso, President of the EC, and Mahmoud Abbas, President of the Palestinian Authority	00:00:11
10:00:11	Soundbite by Mahmoud Abbas, President of the Palestinian Authority (in ARAB) saying that they talked about the inauguration of the Police academy built with the support of the European Union; saying that they talked about the peace process and the conditions that have been met in order to find a solution; saying that they talked about the Israeli settlement activities which is rejected by the world and they ask to the Israeli government to stop its settlement activities and to resume the political process in order to reach a two states solution; saying that they talked about the economic and financial difficulties faced by the Palestinian Authority and he thanks the EU for meeting their obligations.	00:04:47
10:04:58	Soundbite by José Manuel Barroso (in ENGLISH): Good evening ladies and gentlemen, First of all, let me say that this was a very good, constructive and friendly meeting with President Abbas. This was the culmination of a day of intense contacts. I was also in Jericho, I was in Bethlehem and I had other official meetings. Apart from those official meetings I met representatives from the Palestinian civil society in Jerusalem. I expressed to Mahmoud Abbas our commitment in the European Union to a viable, independent Palestine. The European Union has stood by you and continues to stand by you. I also stated that from our point of view there is no alternative to	00:04:09

stated that from our point of view there is no alternative to negotiations if we want to reach that goal – a two-state solution: an independent, viable, democratic Palestinian state living side by side with Israel. Recognising the difficulties of the situation on the ground, we believe that it is important to make that step further. We also expressed our opinion regarding Palestinian reconciliation. We believe it is very important to achieve this goal to have Palestinian reconciliation and for that purpose also democratic elections. We are sure that Palestinian leaders will keep their commitment to these principles – the principles of rule of law, democracy, respect of human rights, and the principle of free elections. We also discussed, as I have done this morning with the Prime Minister, the difficult financial situation and I reiterated to President Abbas our commitments. The European Union will respect its commitments in terms of support to the Palestinian authorities and to the Palestinian people, and I hope that others will also respect their commitments in that direction.