



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 7 March 2013

7221/13

**OLP 2
MED 8
PESC 269
OC 126**

"I/A" ITEM NOTE

from: General Secretariat of the Council
to: COREPER/Council

No. Cion prop.: 17814/12 MED 55 OC 757

Subject: **Relations with the Palestinian Authority**

Council Decision on the European Union position within the Joint Committee established by the Euro-Mediterranean Interim Association Agreement on Trade and Co-operation between the European Community, of the one part, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for the benefit of the Palestinian Authority (PA) of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, of the other part, with regard to the adoption of a Recommendation on the implementation of the EU-PA ENP Action Plan

COMMON GUIDELINES

Consultation deadline: 12 March 2012

1. On 14 December 2012, the Commission submitted a proposal for a Council Decision on the position to be adopted by the European Union within the Joint Committee established by the Euro-Mediterranean Interim Association Agreement on Trade and Co-operation between the European Community, of the one part, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for the benefit of the Palestinian Authority (PA) of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, of the other part, with regard to the adoption of a Recommendation on the implementation of the EU-PA ENP Action Plan (doc. 17814/11 MED 55).

2. At its meetings on 21 January, 14, 25 and 28 February, 4 and 5 March 2013, the "Mashraq/Maghreb" Working Party examined the proposal and agreed the position to be adopted by the European Union within the EU-PA Joint Committee with regard to the adoption of a Recommendation on the implementation of this Action Plan, as set out in Annex I of this document.
3. The Recommendation of the Joint Committee relates to the implementation of the EU-Palestinian Authority (PA) Action Plan which is a text of a political nature and has no legally binding effects for the Parties. This position to be approved by the Council is not based on Article 218 (9) TFEU. Noting the urgency of this specific Action Plan, it is suggested that the Council decides to adopt the EU position on the Action Plan on this basis, agrees to revert to this issue for the adoption of future Action Plans and underlines that the position adopted for this case does not constitute a precedent.
4. Accordingly, it is recommended that COREPER invites the Council, at a forthcoming meeting under "A" items on its agenda, to:
 - approve the draft Council Decision, as set out in doc. 6995/13 OLP 1 MED 6 PESC 239 OC 104 as finalised by the Legal/Linguistic Experts ;
 - agree that the EU-PA Joint Committee adopts the Recommendation on the implementation of the EU-PA Action Plan, as set out in doc. UE-OLP 1851/13, as finalised by the Legal/Linguistic Experts;
 - decide on the publication of the Joint Committee Recommendation in the Official Journal following adoption by the Joint Committee.