



Dear Mr. President,

We are writing to you regarding the meeting agenda of the Delegation for relations with Palestine (DPAL) taking place during this week's Strasbourg plenary, specifically on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July 2017.

We are utterly appalled with the understanding that our colleagues from DPAL, under the pretext of discussing, "the situation of the Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails after the hunger-strike", are in fact offering a public platform to relatives of convicted terrorists, respectively to Fadwa Barghouti, wife of Marwan Barghouti, and to Sumoud Saadat, daughter of Ahmad Sa'adat.

We, Members of the European Parliament, are seriously concerned with the message this forum sends to our constituencies amidst such turbulent times in Europe. Unquestioningly, the House of European democracy should not be perceived glorifying terrorist or opening its doors to EU listed terrorist organisations, such as the Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and for Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade (Council Decision 2012/333/CFSP).

Ahmad Sa'aadat, a convicted terrorist is currently Secretary General of the terrorist group PFLP, responsible for hijacking aircrafts from Brussels, Frankfurt, Zurich, conducting several attacks on Israeli embassies in Europe and other terrorist acts resulting in many casualties. Equally, Marwan Barghouti, founder of Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade during the Second Intifada, responsible of carrying out attacks on civilians, has been convicted in 2004 by the Israeli government for 5 counts of murder.

Given that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict involves a wide range of issues, we encourage our colleagues, who choose to show their support for the Palestinian self-determination, to engage with Palestinian actors pursuing peace, and not with convicted terrorists.

Therefore, we call for the suspension of the DPAL meeting until its guest speakers' agenda reflects the European values and norms on combating hate speech and terrorism.

Respectfully,

MEP Lars ADAKTUSSON (EPP, Sweden)

MEP Fulvio MARTUSCIELLO (Chair of the Delegation for relations with Israel/ EPP, Italy)

MEP Ioan Mircea PASCU (Vice President of the European Parliament/S&D, Romania)

MEP Frederique RIES (ALDE, Belgium)

MEP Petras AUSTREVICIUS (Vice-Chair ALDE, Lithuania)

MEP Cristian DAN PREDA (EPP, Romania)

MEP Hannu TAKKULA (ALDE, Finland)

MEP Bas BELDER (Vice-Chair of the Delegation for relations with Israel/ ECR, the Netherlands)

MEP Milan ZVER (EPP, Slovenia)  
MEP Patricija SULIN (EPP, Slovenia)  
MEP Peter NIEDERMULLER (S&D, Hungary)  
MEP Anders VISTISEN (Vice-Chair AFET/ ECR, Denmark)  
MEP Tunne KELAM (EPP, Estonia)  
MEP Marijana PETIR (EPP, Croatia)  
MEP Arne GERICKE (ECR, Germany)  
MEP Branislav SKPRIPEK (ECR, Slovakia)  
MEP Anna Fotyga (ECR, Poland)