

## Middle East Reform

### Commitment:

“We support Mr Wolfensohn’s intention to stimulate a global financial contribution of up to \$3bn per year over the coming three years. Domestic and international investors should be full partners to this process. We are mobilising practical support for Mr Wolfensohn’s efforts and look forward to further development of his plans and their presentation to the Quartet and the international community in September.”

*-Middle East Peace Process<sup>658</sup>*

### Background:

Consisting of Russia, the United States, the European Union (EU), and the United Nations, the Middle East “Quartet” was established in 2002 for the purpose of developing and implementing “a comprehensive action plan for reform” in the Middle East.<sup>659</sup> Mr. James Wolfensohn, as the Quartet’s Special Envoy for Gaza Disengagement, developed a plan that includes six key “make or break” issues “the parties must address for disengagement to work.”<sup>660</sup> The plan further includes three key areas for support and reform “that will have the greatest impact and be most likely to foster hope for a new future” for the Palestinian people.<sup>661</sup> Included in his proposal are calls for the opening of a border crossing at Rafah and for significant financial assistance directed toward stabilizing and improving the economy in the Palestinian territory in both the short and medium terms.<sup>662</sup> It is this package of proposals that the G8 members endorsed and pledged to support at the Gleneagles summit in July 2005.

The political context within which this commitment is located has changed remarkably, however, since Russia assumed the G8 presidency in January of this year. Former Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, remains in a coma following a stroke suffered in January, and Ehud Olmert became Prime Minister following an election victory in March 2006 as the head of Sharon’s new Kadima party.<sup>663</sup> In addition, Hamas gained control of the Palestinian Authority with a dramatic

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<sup>658</sup> Middle East Peace Process, G8 Gleneagles 2005 (Gleneagles), 8 July 2005. Accessed: 15 January 2006. [www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/mepp.pdf](http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/mepp.pdf),

<sup>659</sup> Statement of the Middle East Quartet, European Commission (Brussels), 16 July 2002. Accessed: 4 January 2006. [europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/med\\_mideast/news/statquartet.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/med_mideast/news/statquartet.htm),

<sup>660</sup> Testimony of James D. Wolfensohn, Quartet Special Envoy for Disengagement to the Foreign Relations Committee, US Senate (Washington DC), 30 June 2005. Accessed: 8 January 2006. [foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2005/WolfensohnTestimony050630.pdf](http://foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2005/WolfensohnTestimony050630.pdf),

<sup>661</sup> Testimony of James D. Wolfensohn, Quartet Special Envoy for Disengagement to the Foreign Relations Committee, US Senate (Washington DC), 30 June 2005. Accessed: 8 January 2006. [foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2005/WolfensohnTestimony050630.pdf](http://foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2005/WolfensohnTestimony050630.pdf),

<sup>662</sup> Testimony of James D. Wolfensohn, Quartet Special Envoy for Disengagement to the Foreign Relations Committee, US Senate (Washington DC), 30 June 2005. Accessed: 8 January 2006. [foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2005/WolfensohnTestimony050630.pdf](http://foreign.senate.gov/testimony/2005/WolfensohnTestimony050630.pdf),

<sup>663</sup> Profile: Ariel Sharon, BBC News Online, 28 May 2006. Date of Access: 30 May 2006. [news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in\\_depth/middle\\_east/2001/israel\\_and\\_the\\_palestinians/profiles/1154622.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_depth/middle_east/2001/israel_and_the_palestinians/profiles/1154622.stm),

election victory in January of this year,<sup>664</sup> and Mr Wolfensohn is no longer the Quartet’s Special Envoy for Gaza Disengagement.

See Appendix B for a full rationale of the coding rules for this commitment.

Team Leader: Aaron Rath

### Assessment:

	Lack of Compliance -1	Work in Progress 0	Full Compliance +1
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Russia			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Overall			1.00

### Individual Country Compliance Breakdown:

#### 1. Canada: +1

Canada demonstrated full compliance towards its Gleneagles commitment to Mr Wolfensohn’s plan for Middle East reform through an increase in financial aid targeted at economic development, the deployment of Canadian officials in support of border management efforts, and the establishment of an institution devoted to the promotion of peace in the region.

On 15 September 2005 former Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin pledged a further CAD\$24.5 million in additional Canadian assistance to strengthen the capacity of the Palestinian Authority.<sup>665</sup> Canadian funding focused on facilitating economic development and good governance in four sectors, including safety and security, governance, economic development and the private sector, and the refugee issue.<sup>666</sup> CAD\$6 million has been set aside to provide up to 1,300 microcredit loans, 2,000 temporary jobs, and training for 1,800 entrepreneurs to improve the living conditions of Palestinian refugees in the Gaza Strip.<sup>667</sup> In September, the Canadian government augmented its initial May 2005<sup>668</sup> CAD\$12.2 million package to

<sup>664</sup> Jeremy Bowen. Mid-East Quartet Faces Changed Times, BBC News Online, 15 May 2006. Accessed: 17 May 2006. [news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/4971936.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/4971936.stm),

<sup>665</sup> Prime Minister Martin Welcomes Israel’s Pullout and Pledges Support for the Palestinian Authority, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa), 16 September 2005. Accessed: 19 December 2005. [www.pm.gc.ca/eng/news.asp?id=583](http://www.pm.gc.ca/eng/news.asp?id=583).

<sup>666</sup> Prime Minister Martin Welcomes Israel’s Pullout and Pledges Support for the Palestinian Authority, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa), 16 September 2005. Accessed: 19 December 2005. [www.pm.gc.ca/eng/news.asp?id=583](http://www.pm.gc.ca/eng/news.asp?id=583).

<sup>667</sup> Prime Minister Martin Welcomes Israel’s Pullout and Pledges Support for the Palestinian Authority, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa), 16 September 2005. Accessed: 19 December 2005. [www.pm.gc.ca/eng/news.asp?id=583](http://www.pm.gc.ca/eng/news.asp?id=583).

<sup>668</sup> Prime Minister Martin Welcomes Israel’s Pullout and Pledges Support for the Palestinian Authority, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa), 16 September 2005. Accessed: 19 December 2005. [www.pm.gc.ca/eng/news.asp?id=583](http://www.pm.gc.ca/eng/news.asp?id=583).

CAD\$13.2 million, bringing the total figure for the government's aid package to the Palestinian people to CAD\$36.7 million.<sup>669</sup>

As part of Canada's enhanced package of assistance to the Palestinians, on 15 November 2005 former Foreign Affairs Minister Pierre Pettigrew announced the deployment of a high-level border management expert in support of the work of Mr Wolfensohn.<sup>670</sup> Canada Border Services Agency is also providing additional expert assistance to the Palestinian Authority in the area of border management.<sup>671</sup>

On 28 November 2005 former Foreign Affairs Minister Pettigrew also announced plans for a centre to support peace and democracy in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and throughout the Middle East, with the creation of the Canada Centre for Peace and Democracy.<sup>672</sup> Canada intends to use the Centre to introduce innovative technologies and solutions to facilitate governance, democratic dialogue, and capacity building enhancement.<sup>673</sup>

Also, on 14 February 2006 Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper issued a statement emphasizing Canada's full support of the Quartet's statement of 30 January 2006.<sup>674</sup> The Quartet concluded that it was inevitable that future assistance to any new Palestinian government would be reviewed by donors against that government's commitment to the principles of nonviolence, recognition of Israel, and acceptance of previous agreements and obligations, including the Roadmap.

On 7 March 2006, in response to the Hamas victory in the Palestinian Elections, Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay reiterated Canada's commitment to the goal of a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the Middle East, saying, "Any assistance to a new Palestinian government will require that government's commitment to the principle of non-violence, recognition of Israel and the acceptance of previous agreements and obligations, including the Quartet's Roadmap for Peace."<sup>675</sup>

On 29 March 2006, in response to Hamas forming the newest government of the Palestinian Authority and not addressing the concerns raised by Canada, Minister MacKay and International

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<sup>669</sup> Prime Minister Martin Welcomes Israel's Pullout and Pledges Support for the Palestinian Authority, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa), 16 September 2005. Accessed: 19 December 2005. [www.pm.gc.ca/eng/news.asp?id=583](http://www.pm.gc.ca/eng/news.asp?id=583).

<sup>670</sup> Minister Pettigrew Welcomes Opening of Gaza Crossings, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (Ottawa), 15 November, 2005. Accessed: 19 December 2005. [news.gc.ca/cfmx/view/en/index.jsp?articleid=183549](http://news.gc.ca/cfmx/view/en/index.jsp?articleid=183549).

<sup>671</sup> Minister Pettigrew Welcomes Opening of Gaza Crossings, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (Ottawa), 15 November, 2005. Accessed: 19 December 2005. [news.gc.ca/cfmx/view/en/index.jsp?articleid=183549](http://news.gc.ca/cfmx/view/en/index.jsp?articleid=183549).

<sup>672</sup> Minister Pettigrew Announces Plans For Canada Centre For Peace and Democracy In Middle East (Ottawa), 28 November, 2005. Accessed: 19 December 2005. [news.gc.ca/cfmx/view/en/index.jsp?articleid=186449](http://news.gc.ca/cfmx/view/en/index.jsp?articleid=186449).

<sup>673</sup> Minister Pettigrew Announces Plans For Canada Centre For Peace and Democracy In Middle East (Ottawa), 28 November, 2005. Accessed: 19 December 2005. [news.gc.ca/cfmx/view/en/index.jsp?articleid=186449](http://news.gc.ca/cfmx/view/en/index.jsp?articleid=186449).

<sup>674</sup> Statement by the Prime Minister on the situation in the Palestinian Authority, Office of the Prime Minister (Ottawa), 14 February 2006. Accessed: 7 May 2006. [pm.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?id=1016](http://pm.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?id=1016).

<sup>675</sup> Statement by Minister Mackay on the Middle East, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (Ottawa), 7 March 2006. Accessed: 7 May 2006. [w01.international.gc.ca/MinPub/Publication.asp?publication\\_id=383730&Language=E](http://w01.international.gc.ca/MinPub/Publication.asp?publication_id=383730&Language=E).

Cooperation Minister Josée Verner announced that Canada will have no contact with the members of the Hamas cabinet. Canada also suspended assistance to the Palestinian Authority.<sup>676</sup>

Canada has made an important distinction between assistance to the Palestinian Authority and to Palestinians.<sup>677</sup> Despite cutting off direct aid to the Palestinian government, Canada continues to work with its partners and through the United Nations, its agencies, and other organizations, to support and respond to the humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people.<sup>678</sup> Canada has also pledged to continue to work with the voices of moderation within Palestinian Society.<sup>679</sup>

Analyst: Kyle D'Souza

## 2. France: +1

The government of France is in compliance with its commitment to Middle East reform made at the Gleneagles Summit in July 2005. As a member of the European Union (EU), the French government has demonstrated significant support for Mr Wolfenshon's reform plan by actively participating in the effort to find a suitable plan to resume the transmission of direct financial aid to the Palestinian territories following the suspension of direct aid to the Palestinian Authority in February as a result of the election of Hamas. Furthermore, the French government has hosted, and voiced its support, for Palestinian Authority president Mahmoud Abbas, and it has reiterated its commitment to the establishment of a peaceful two-state solution between Palestine and Israel.

The European Union decided to maintain humanitarian aid but to suspend direct aid to the new government following the election of Hamas in January 2006. The annual financial aid by the EU traditionally amounts to 500 million Euros<sup>680</sup> but the suspension of direct aid has cut that to 120 million Euros.<sup>681</sup> In response, French authorities have vowed to channel financial aid around the Hamas government to reinforce the Palestinian presidency and to support NGOs working in the Palestinian territories. This was evoked when French president Jacques Chirac hosted PA president Mahmoud Abbas on 27 and 28 April 2006. President Chirac affirmed to President Abbas that he had "the support of France" and he pleaded that it was essential to resume the direct aid to the PA to pay the 160 000 Palestinian civil servants who have been deprived of salary since March 2006.<sup>682</sup> At the meeting with President Abbas, President Chirac proposed to

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<sup>676</sup> Joint Statement By Minister Mackay and Minister Verner on New Palestinian Government and Assistance to the Palestinian People, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (Ottawa), 29 March 2006. Accessed: 7 May 2006. [w01.international.gc.ca/MinPub/Publication.asp?publication\\_id=383817&Language=E](http://w01.international.gc.ca/MinPub/Publication.asp?publication_id=383817&Language=E).

<sup>677</sup> Joint Statement By Minister Mackay and Minister Verner on New Palestinian Government and Assistance to the Palestinian People, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (Ottawa), 29 March 2006. Accessed: 7 May 2006. [w01.international.gc.ca/MinPub/Publication.asp?publication\\_id=383817&Language=E](http://w01.international.gc.ca/MinPub/Publication.asp?publication_id=383817&Language=E).

<sup>678</sup> Joint Statement By Minister Mackay and Minister Verner on New Palestinian Government and Assistance to the Palestinian People, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (Ottawa), 29 March 2006. Accessed: 7 May 2006. [w01.international.gc.ca/MinPub/Publication.asp?publication\\_id=383817&Language=E](http://w01.international.gc.ca/MinPub/Publication.asp?publication_id=383817&Language=E).

<sup>679</sup> Joint Statement By Minister Mackay and Minister Verner on New Palestinian Government and Assistance to the Palestinian People, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (Ottawa), 29 March 2006. Accessed: 7 May 2006. [w01.international.gc.ca/MinPub/Publication.asp?publication\\_id=383817&Language=E](http://w01.international.gc.ca/MinPub/Publication.asp?publication_id=383817&Language=E).

<sup>680</sup> Mahmoud Abbas doit parler de l'aide aux Palestiniens avec Jacques Chirac, *Le Monde* (Paris), 28 April 2006.

<sup>681</sup> Palestine : l'Europe reste engagée, *Le Monde* (Paris), 9 May 2006,

<sup>682</sup> Jacques Chirac veut maintenir l'aide aux Palestiniens, *Le Monde* (Paris), 28 April 2006,

create a fiduciary fund managed by the World Bank to pay the salaries of the Palestinian civil servants without transiting the money to the Hamas government.<sup>683</sup>

The French authorities' suggestion to create a fiduciary fund was adopted on 9 May 2006 when the Quartet members met in New York. The foreign affair ministers of the Quartet tasked the EU with the responsibility to create the temporary mechanism to channel financial aid directly to the Palestinians.<sup>684</sup>

Analyst: Hughes Letourneau

### 3. Germany: +1

Germany registered an acceptable level of compliance with regards to its Gleneagles commitment to mobilize financial and practical support for the Palestinian Authority, as outlined by the recommendations of Mr Wolfensohn.

On 23 August 2005, German Federal Foreign Minister, Joschka Fischer acknowledged the crucial role played by Mr Wolfensohn, indicating that the German government “wholeheartedly supports his work.”<sup>685</sup> Fischer also urged Israel to “make a decisive contribution to economic development of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank and thus to stability and security.”<sup>686</sup> On 25 November 2005, in Germany's response to the opening of the Rafah border crossing, Fischer's successor as Federal Foreign Minister, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, noted that the “Federal Government remains fully committed to the international road map.”<sup>687</sup>

Additionally, the German government has demonstrated its commitment to Mr Wolfensohn's reform package through its partnership in the €14 million financial aid package announced by the European Commission on 13 December 2005.<sup>688</sup>

Furthermore, the German government has demonstrated its commitment through its support of the EU's efforts to ensure safety and security at the Rafah border crossing between Egypt and the

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<sup>683</sup> Chirac — Abbas : aider les Palestiniens, pas le Hamas, Radio France Internationale, Proche-Orient, 28 April 2006, Accessed : 16 May 2006. [www.rfi.fr/francais/actu/articles/076/article\\_43373.asp](http://www.rfi.fr/francais/actu/articles/076/article_43373.asp).

<sup>684</sup> Propositions de la France pour améliorer la situation dans les Territoires palestiniens, France diplomatie (Paris), 15 May 2006, Accessed : 16 May 2006. [www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/pays-zones-geo\\_833/israel-territoires-palestiniens\\_413/presentation-territoires-palestiniens\\_4260/propositions-france-pour-ameliorer-situation-dans-les-territoires-palestiniens-15.05.06\\_34855.html](http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/pays-zones-geo_833/israel-territoires-palestiniens_413/presentation-territoires-palestiniens_4260/propositions-france-pour-ameliorer-situation-dans-les-territoires-palestiniens-15.05.06_34855.html).

<sup>685</sup> Federal Minister Fischer on the Completion of the Israeli Withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin), 23 August 2005. Accessed: 16 December 2005. [www.auswaertiges-amt.de/www/en/ausgabe\\_archiv?archiv\\_id=7517](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/www/en/ausgabe_archiv?archiv_id=7517).

<sup>686</sup> Federal Minister Fischer on the Completion of the Israeli Withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin), 23 August 2005. Accessed: 16 December 2005. [www.auswaertiges-amt.de/www/en/ausgabe\\_archiv?archiv\\_id=7517](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/www/en/ausgabe_archiv?archiv_id=7517).

<sup>687</sup> Federal Minister Steinmeier on the Opening of the Border Crossing in Rafah, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin), 25 November 2005. Accessed: 16 December 2005. [www.auswaertiges-amt.de/www/en/ausgabe\\_archiv?archiv\\_id=7836](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/www/en/ausgabe_archiv?archiv_id=7836).

<sup>688</sup> Commission contributes € 14 million to the Euro-Palestinian Credit Guarantee Fund, EUROPA (Brussels), 13 December 2005. Accessed: 18 December 2005. [europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/gaza/news/ip05\\_1574.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/gaza/news/ip05_1574.htm)

Palestinian Territory,<sup>689</sup> by providing a number of experts to serve within the planned EU border protection and customs mission.<sup>690</sup> Moreover, the German Federal Foreign Office has contributed €500,000 in funding for the mission.<sup>691</sup>

Citing Hamas to be a terrorist organization, Germany, as an EU member state, cut off direct financial aid to the Palestinian Authority in response to the election of the Hamas government.<sup>692</sup> Meanwhile, the European Union has pledged to meet the humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people through charities and other means.<sup>693</sup>

At a meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, on 10 May 2006, German Chancellor Angela Merkel reiterated Germany's stance on the prospect of political negotiations with the Hamas led Palestinian Authority, stating, "Hamas will have to acknowledge Israel's right to exist as an independent and sovereign state, and the Palestinian leadership will have to renounce the use of violence."<sup>694</sup> Chancellor Merkel stated that Germany also has "an interest in making sure that the humanitarian situation does not get worse in the Palestinian territories."<sup>695</sup>

On 9 May 2006, it was announced that the EU would take the lead in response to the quartet expressing its willingness to endorse a temporary international mechanism "that is limited in scope and duration" and "operates with full transparency and accountability."<sup>696</sup> European Union diplomats reconfirmed that while the new fund is supposed to administer only money for basic human needs, "at some point, it might be used to pay salaries for urgently" needed services that the Hamas government would be expected to provide.<sup>697</sup> Additionally on 15 May 2006 the European Union pledged "to resume payments to the Palestinians as soon as possible, but said that a new aid mechanism required Israeli support."<sup>698</sup> EU Foreign Ministers expressed "serious

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<sup>689</sup> Federal Minister Steinmeier on the Opening of the Border Crossing in Rafah, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin), 25 November 2005. Accessed: 16 December 2005. [www.auswaertiges-amt.de/www/en/ausgabe\\_archiv?archiv\\_id=7836](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/www/en/ausgabe_archiv?archiv_id=7836).

<sup>690</sup> Federal Minister Steinmeier on the Opening of the Border Crossing in Rafah, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin), 25 November 2005. Accessed: 16 December 2005. [www.auswaertiges-amt.de/www/en/ausgabe\\_archiv?archiv\\_id=7836](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/www/en/ausgabe_archiv?archiv_id=7836).

<sup>691</sup> Federal Minister Steinmeier on the Opening of the Border Crossing in Rafah, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin), 25 November 2005. Accessed: 16 December 2005. [www.auswaertiges-amt.de/www/en/ausgabe\\_archiv?archiv\\_id=7836](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/www/en/ausgabe_archiv?archiv_id=7836).

<sup>692</sup> Quartet Agrees to Channel Aid to Palestinians, Reuters (United Nations), 9 May 2006. Accessed: 16 May 2006. [go.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=worldNews&storyID=12133307&src=rss/worldNews](http://go.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=worldNews&storyID=12133307&src=rss/worldNews).

<sup>693</sup> U.S., allies agree on limited aid for Palestinians, Associated Press (United Nations), 10 May 2006. Accessed: 16 May 2006. [www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20060510.whamas0510/BNStory/International](http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20060510.whamas0510/BNStory/International)

<sup>694</sup> Egyptian President Mubarak Meets Merkel in Berlin, Deutsche Welle (Berlin), 10 May 2006. Accessed: 16 May 2006. [www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,2144,2015505,00.html](http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,2144,2015505,00.html).

<sup>695</sup> Egyptian President Mubarak Meets Merkel in Berlin, Deutsche Welle (Berlin), 10 May 2006. Accessed: 16 May 2006. [www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,2144,2015505,00.html](http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,2144,2015505,00.html).

<sup>696</sup> U.S., allies agree on limited aid for Palestinians, Associated Press (United Nations), 10 May 2006. Accessed: 16 May 2006. [www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20060510.whamas0510/BNStory/International](http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20060510.whamas0510/BNStory/International)

<sup>697</sup> U.S., allies agree on limited aid for Palestinians, Associated Press (United Nations), 10 May 2006. Accessed: 16 May 2006. [www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20060510.whamas0510/BNStory/International](http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20060510.whamas0510/BNStory/International)

<sup>698</sup> Europeans 'eager' to provide funding for PA, Reuters (Brussels), 15 May 2006. Accessed: 16 May 2006. [www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/716234.html](http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/716234.html).

concern' about the deterioration in the humanitarian, economic, and financial situation in the Gaza Strip and West Bank that has followed cuts in EU and U.S. payments.<sup>699</sup>

On 23 May 2006 a new emergency aid package worth €34 million to help meet the “basic needs” of the Palestinian people will be agreed on.<sup>700</sup> Germany remains committed to finding ways of effectively helping families in Palestine, while at the same time making it clear that the Palestinian Authority must change its position if it wants Germany’s cooperation in the future.<sup>701</sup>

Analyst: Kyle D’Souza

#### **4. Italy: +1**

The Italian government registered an acceptable level of compliance with its commitment to Middle East reform. Rome’s compliance was achieved primarily through the Italian government’s reiteration of its commitment to a long-term, sustainable solution to the conflict in the region and through its involvement in EU financial and security contributions to stability in the Middle East.

Representatives of the Italian government have repeatedly called for committed and sustained reform on the part of both the Palestinian Authority (PA) and the Israeli government. In March 2006, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Gianfranco Fini reiterated the Italian government’s demand for the PA to renounce violence and for Israel to facilitate the resumed implementation of the Quartet Road Map for Israeli-Palestinian Peace.<sup>702</sup> These principles for reform in the Middle East were also endorsed by Italy’s newly elected Prime Minister Romano Prodi, who stressed in May 2006 that direct financial assistance to the Hamas-led PA can only be achieved if the latter party abides by the conditions set by the Quartet.<sup>703</sup>

The Italian government has also supported its calls for reform with commitments to support the peace process through its own contributions and under the auspices of the EU.<sup>704</sup> Speaking with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert on 8 May 2006, Minister Fini stressed that “the promotion of an area of stability, democracy, peace and mutual comprehension in the Middle East is a priority

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<sup>699</sup> Europeans ‘eager’ to provide funding for PA, Reuters (Brussels), 15 May 2006. Accessed: 16 May 2006. [www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/716234.html](http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/716234.html).

<sup>700</sup> Palestinian aid, Iran nuclear case top EU foreign ministers’ talks (Brussels), 15 May 2006. Accessed: 16 May 2006.

[news.monstersandcritics.com/europe/article\\_1164049.php/Palestinian\\_aid\\_Iran\\_nuclear\\_case\\_top\\_EU\\_foreign\\_ministers\\_talks](http://news.monstersandcritics.com/europe/article_1164049.php/Palestinian_aid_Iran_nuclear_case_top_EU_foreign_ministers_talks).

<sup>701</sup> Egyptian President Mubarak Meets Merkel in Berlin, Deutsche Welle (Berlin), 10 May 2006. Accessed: 16 May 2006. [www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,2144,2015505,00.html](http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,2144,2015505,00.html).

<sup>702</sup> Gianfranco Fini, Italy's Role in Mediterranean Security and the Fight Against Terrorism, Mediterranean Quarterly, posted at Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Rome), 6 March 2006. Date Accessed: 16 May 2006. [www.esteri.it/eng/6\\_38\\_90\\_01.asp?id=2298&mod=4&min=0](http://www.esteri.it/eng/6_38_90_01.asp?id=2298&mod=4&min=0).

<sup>703</sup> Ehud Olmert Chiama Prodi, Comunicati de Romano Prodi, 19 April 2006. Date Accessed: 19 May 2006. [www.romanoprodi.it/cgi-bin/adon.cgi?act=doc&doc=1488&sid=6](http://www.romanoprodi.it/cgi-bin/adon.cgi?act=doc&doc=1488&sid=6).

<sup>704</sup> Gianfranco Fini, Italy's Role in Mediterranean Security and the Fight Against Terrorism, Mediterranean Quarterly, posted at Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Rome), 6 March 2006. Date Accessed: 16 May 2006. [www.esteri.it/eng/6\\_38\\_90\\_01.asp?id=2298&mod=4&min=0](http://www.esteri.it/eng/6_38_90_01.asp?id=2298&mod=4&min=0).

objective of [Italy's] foreign policy," towards the achievement of which the Italian government would continue to work and contribute "tirelessly."<sup>705</sup>

The Italian government's most important contributions to reform and stability in the Middle East continue to occur through its participation in EU-led initiatives in the region. Italy continues to register an important contribution to the European Union Border Assistance Mission for the Rafah Crossing Point, which is led by Italian Lt. General Pietro Pistolese.<sup>706</sup> Together with its fellow EU member states, Italy has been involved in efforts to establish the temporary international mechanism to deliver aid directly to the Palestinian people in the wake of the international upheaval caused by the election of Hamas to the PA.<sup>707</sup>

Analyst: Marie-Adele Cassola

## 5. Japan: +1

The government of Japan is in compliance with its commitment to Middle East reform made at the Gleneagles summit in July 2005. The Japanese government has been financially involved in economic stabilization efforts in the Palestinian territories mainly through UN agencies, and Japanese authorities have further reiterated their commitment to the Middle East peace process.

On 9 January 2006, the government of Japan announced financial assistance amounting to US\$5,276,745.90 through the Trust Fund for Human security to assist the isolated and disenfranchised communities in the Occupied Palestinian territories. These funds will notably go towards the educational opportunities of Palestinians and the construction of social infrastructure such as homes and roads. The purpose of the program is to improve the quality of social life and thus contribute to the peace process between Palestinians and Israelis.<sup>708</sup>

Additional aid was announced on 17 March 2006 when the Japanese government announced that it would extend food aid to the Palestinians by US\$6 million through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNWRA) and the World Food Programme. The aim of this aid is to "alleviate food shortages of the Palestinian people and thus to contribute to advancing the Middle East peace process."<sup>709</sup>

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi was scheduled to visit the Palestinian territories and Israel at the beginning of January 2006, but postponed his trip due to the health of Prime

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705 Message from Minister Fini to the Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Rome), 8 May 2006. Date Accessed: 17 May 2006. [www.esteri.it/eng/0\\_1\\_01.asp?id=1430](http://www.esteri.it/eng/0_1_01.asp?id=1430).

706 Javier Solana, welcomes 100 000th border crossing at Rafah, The European Commission's Delegation to Israel, 7 February 2006. Date Accessed: 19 May 2006.

[www.eu-del.org.il/english/whatsnew.asp?id=580](http://www.eu-del.org.il/english/whatsnew.asp?id=580).

707 Quartet Statement, Council of the European Union (Brussels), 9 May 2006. Date Accessed: 15 May 2006.

[www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressData/en/declarations/89495.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/declarations/89495.pdf).

708 Assistance for "Isolated and Disenfranchised Communities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory" Project, The Ministry of Foreign affairs of Japan (Tokyo), 9 January 2006, Accessed: 17 May 2006.

[www.mofa.go.jp/announce/announce/2006/1/0109.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/announce/announce/2006/1/0109.html).

709 Food aid for Palestine, The Ministry of Foreign affairs of Japan (Tokyo), 17 March 2006, Accessed: 17 May 2006. [www.mofa.go.jp/announce/announce/2006/3/0317-4.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/announce/announce/2006/3/0317-4.html).

Minister Ariel Sharon. However, policy statements say the Japanese prime minister is still committed to “the promotion of the bilateral relations with each party” and “to encourage further efforts by the Israelis and the Palestinians to advance the Middle East Peace Process.”

Analyst: Hughes Letourneau

## 6. Russia: +1

For the first six months since the Gleneagles Summit, Russia fully complied with the commitment made at the Summit through its active participation in the Quartet of international mediators for Israel and Palestine. Russia’s actions included a proposal for a high level international conference on the Middle East peace process after the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza.<sup>710</sup> Russia’s support for the Palestinian Authority’s (PA) security services would also have helped to aid Mr Wolfensohn’s goals of rebuilding the Palestinian economy, since free movement of goods and people within the Palestinian territories and to Israel and other trade partners are essential for Palestinian trade and the rebuilding of the economy. In August 2005, after talks between Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and his Palestinian counterpart, Naser al-Qidwa, Lavrov stated that Russia would be supporting training and education for Palestinian security personnel<sup>711</sup> Additionally, Lavrov took part in a Quartet visit to Israel and the Palestinian Territories in October 2005 where one of the goals was to facilitate the implementation the program for Palestinian economic development put forward by Mr Wolfensohn.<sup>712</sup>

Since the election of Hamas in January 2006, and the refusal of the movement to recognize Israel’s right to exist or renounce the use of force, Russia, through its efforts in the Quartet in aiding the Palestinians, has remained in compliance with the Gleneagles commitment. Mr Wolfensohn has pointed out the dangers of abandoning and undermining the goals of building credible and functional Palestinian institutions by cutting aid in response to the Hamas victory.<sup>713</sup> Mr Putin received Mr Wolfensohn in Moscow in February 2006 to discuss the situation in the Middle East after the Hamas electoral success.<sup>714</sup> In April 2006, Russia announced that it had promised emergency aid to the Palestinian Authority, which had earlier warned of economic collapse.<sup>715</sup>

In the Quartet, Russia was for some time the only member that protested against an economic and diplomatic embargo against the Hamas-led government.<sup>716</sup> Russia was also a leader in finding a means of channelling aid to the Palestinians around Hamas. In response to the humanitarian needs in the Palestinian territories, on 4 May 2006, Russia transferred US\$10

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<sup>710</sup> Middle East Quartet Statement (New York), 20 September 2005. Accessed: 20 December 2005. [www.un.org/news/dh/infocus/middle\\_east/quartet-20sept2005.htm](http://www.un.org/news/dh/infocus/middle_east/quartet-20sept2005.htm).

<sup>711</sup> Russia ready to provide support for Palestine security services, Itar-Tass Online (Moscow), 25 August 2005.

<sup>712</sup> Ex Mossad chief prefers US stance to Russian on Mideast, Itar-Tass Online (Moscow), 25 October 2005.

<sup>713</sup> Palestinian aid efforts is failing, says Wolfensohn in final report, Bloomberg.com, 2 May 2006. Accessed: 13 May 2006. Available:

[www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=10000087&sid=auAC3dmWo9Is&refer=top\\_world\\_news](http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=10000087&sid=auAC3dmWo9Is&refer=top_world_news).

<sup>714</sup> Putin receives Mideast Quartet Envoy, The Russia Journal (Moscow), 15 February 2006.

<sup>715</sup> Russia promised to render economic aid to Palestine, Russia Press Digest, 15 April 2006.

<sup>716</sup> Quartet agrees on financial assistance to Palestine, RIA Moskovskiy Novosti (Moscow), 10 May 2006.

million in aid to the Palestinian Authority through a special bank account controlled by Abbas's office.<sup>717</sup> Sergei Yakovlev, the foreign ministry's special envoy to the Middle East has said that Russia would continue to keep open the possibility of providing aid to the Palestinian Authority.<sup>718</sup> The decision of the Quartet on 9 May 2006, to endorse a "temporary international mechanism" to deliver assistance to the Palestinians while bypassing Hamas, might also be seen to be a result of Russian pressure. A meeting between Presidents Putin and Abbas scheduled for 15 May 2006 may lead to further Russian action.

Analyst: Rosita Lee

## 7. United Kingdom: +1

The government of the United Kingdom (UK) is in compliance with its commitment to Middle East reform made at the Gleneagles summit in July 2005. As a member of the European Union (EU), the British government demonstrated significant support for Mr Wolfensohn's reform plan prior to the Hamas election victory by participating in a number of EU missions in the region, and by making financial contributions and commitments to further stabilize the economy of the Palestinian territory. The British approach to its commitments toward the process and the Palestinian people has shifted in recent months, but its new policy directions remain consistent with the terms of the Gleneagles commitment.

In 2005, UK government officials expressed unqualified support for the reform process and publicly encouraged others to offer support for reform in the region. UK Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, speaking in London at the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee Meeting on 12 December 2005, explained that planning was underway for an International Pledging Conference in support of reform efforts for early 2006.<sup>719</sup> One month prior to that address, Foreign Secretary Straw confirmed his government's support for the reform process and called upon others to embrace this commitment by explaining that reform in the region "must be driven by all," and calling on others to "share their experience of reform and to provide practical assistance" to the reform effort.<sup>720</sup>

This rhetorical commitment to the realization of Mr Wolfensohn's reform plan was matched by the UK's participation in the mission to monitor and administer the Rafah border crossing into

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<sup>717</sup> Mikhail Kamynin, the Spokesman of Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Answers Media Questions Regarding Upcoming Regular Ministerial Meeting of Quartet of International Mediators for Middle East Settlement, 7 May 2006. Accessed: 11 May 2006.

[www.mid.ru/brp\\_4.nsf/e78a48070f128a7b43256999005bcb3/9252f456ff49d42ac325716a003a5775?OpenDocument](http://www.mid.ru/brp_4.nsf/e78a48070f128a7b43256999005bcb3/9252f456ff49d42ac325716a003a5775?OpenDocument).

<sup>718</sup> Russia may continue giving aid to Palestine—Foreign Ministry, RIA Moskovskiye Novosti (New York), 8 May 2006.

<sup>719</sup> Building a Virtuous Circle of Peace and Prosperity in the Middle East, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (London), 14 December 2005. Accessed: 4 January 2006.

[www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029391647&a=KArticle&aid=1133774572399](http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029391647&a=KArticle&aid=1133774572399).

<sup>720</sup> Change in the Middle East Must Be Driven by All, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (London), 12 November 2005. Accessed: 4 January 2006.

[www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029391647&a=KArticle&aid=1131975033033](http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029391647&a=KArticle&aid=1131975033033).

Egypt. As holder of the EU's rotating presidency at the time of the agreement, Prime Minister Tony Blair was a key figure in the negotiations that resulted in the Agreement on Movement and Access.<sup>721</sup> The British government had additionally, through the EU, committed financial resources in partnership with other investors to the furtherance of reform efforts in the region. On 13 December 2005, for example, the European Commission announced a €14 million contribution to the new European Palestinian Credit Guarantee Fund.<sup>722</sup>

British policy has, however, shifted since the election of Hamas in January 2006.<sup>723</sup> On 14 March 2006 Foreign Minister Straw announced that the government had withdrawn British monitors from the Jericho Monitoring Mission, explaining that the "Palestinian Authority has consistently failed to meet its obligations under the Ramallah Agreement."<sup>724</sup> Moreover, the UK has, as an EU member, chosen to channel financial aid directly to service providers in the Palestinian Territory, circumventing the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority.<sup>725</sup> Despite these new policy approaches, UK policy is consistent with the Gleneagles commitment to stimulate financial contributions and to mobilize practical support for Mr Wolfensohn's previous efforts.

Analyst: Aaron Rath

## 8. United States: +1

The electoral success of Hamas in January 2006 led to a significant shift in the attitude of the United States towards compliance with the Gleneagles commitment on Middle East reform and peace. Until the election of Hamas, the U.S. actively supported Wolfensohn's efforts in a number of statements and initiatives, particularly with regards to the Gaza disengagement. This included President Bush's reaffirmation during President Abbas's visit in October 2005 that the goal of rebuilding the Palestinian economy had the support of the Quartet and the US. The President also spoke of his agreement with Wolfensohn's goals and priorities and stated his intentions to consult with the Quartet to extend Wolfensohn's tenure as Special Envoy to the Quartet beyond the original end date of December 2005.<sup>726</sup>

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<sup>721</sup> Israeli and Palestinian Agreement on Borders, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (London), 15 November 2005. Accessed: 2 January 2006.

[www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029391629&a=KArticle&aid=1131976557222](http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029391629&a=KArticle&aid=1131976557222).

<sup>722</sup> Commission Contributes €14 million to the Euro-Palestinian Credit Guarantee Fund, EUROPA (Brussels), 13 December 2005. Accessed: 18 December 2005. [europa.eu.int/comm/external\\_relations/gaza/news/ip05\\_1574.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/gaza/news/ip05_1574.htm).

<sup>723</sup> Jeremy Bowen. Mid-East Quartet Faces Changed Times, BBC News Online, 15 May 2006. Accessed: 17 May 2006. [news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/4971936.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/4971936.stm).

<sup>724</sup> Withdrawal of Monitors From Jericho Monitoring Mission (London), 14 March 2006. Accessed: 18 March 2006. [www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1142705172413](http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1142705172413),

<sup>725</sup> Press Release: Commission Meets Palestinian President Abbas, European Commission (Brussels), 13 March 2006. Date Accessed 16 May 2006.

[europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/305&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/305&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en).

<sup>726</sup> President Welcomes Palestinian President Abbas to the White House, Office of the White House Press Secretary (Washington DC), 20 October 2005. Accessed: 20 December 2005. [www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2005/10/print/20051020.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2005/10/print/20051020.html).

The U.S. also supported Wolfensohn's efforts through diplomatic and aid initiatives. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice played a key role in the agreement between Palestinian and Israeli officials on the opening of the international border crossing at Rafah by giving the final push for a solution.<sup>727</sup> The agreement, which Rice helped broker, was announced 15 November 2005 and opened the Rafah border crossing between Egypt and Gaza as well as giving Palestinians control over entry and exit from their territory for the first time since 1967.<sup>728</sup> The conclusion of a US\$50 million agreement with Israel on high-tech scanning equipment to be financed through USAID also reflected U.S. compliance with the Gleneagles commitment, since the technology would have contributed the rebuilding of the economies in both Gaza and the West Bank by easing the movement of people and goods between Israel, the Palestinian territories.<sup>729</sup>

In the wake of the Hamas election victory, the United States withdrew all aid from the Palestinian Authority. The Secretary of State also directed USAID to request the return of US\$50 million of direct assistance to the PA.<sup>730</sup> However, the US position has recently changed to focus on the great need in the Palestinian territories. At the May Quartet meeting, the U.S. acquiesced to a Quartet mechanism that would temporarily resume the flow of aid to the Palestinian Authority.<sup>731</sup> At the same time, Secretary of State Rice announced that the US was prepared to extend US\$10 million in emergency medical aid to the Palestinians through charities. The first portion of the assistance, US\$4 million, was already underway in early May 2006.<sup>732</sup>

Analyst: Rosita Lee

## 9. European Union: +1

The European Union (EU) registered a high level of compliance with its commitment to Middle East reform. The EU continues to support the Palestinian people through financial assistance, security personnel and infrastructure-building even while standing firm in its demand that Hamas, the newly elected representatives of the Palestinian Authority, renounce the use of violence and recognize the state of Israel.

The European Commission has consistently implemented a program of financial aid to the Palestinians while simultaneously encouraging a long-term solution to the region's crisis, highlighting the responsibility for reform on the part of both the Palestinian and Israeli

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<sup>727</sup> Joint Press Availability with European Union High Representative Javier Solana and Quartet Special Envoy Jim Wolfensohn, US Department of State (Washington DC/Jerusalem), 15 November 2005. Accessed: 4 January 2006. [www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2005/56890.htm](http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2005/56890.htm).

<sup>728</sup> Joint Press Availability with European Union High Representative Javier Solana and Quartet Special Envoy Jim Wolfensohn, US Department of State (Washington DC/Jerusalem), 15 November 2005. Accessed: 4 January 2006. [www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2005/56890.htm](http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2005/56890.htm).

<sup>729</sup> US and Israel Sign \$50 Million Agreement on Scanning Equipment for Crossings, US Department of State (Washington DC/Tel Aviv), 8 December 2005. Accessed: 28 December 2005. [www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/pix/b/nea/57820.htm](http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/pix/b/nea/57820.htm)

<sup>730</sup> Palestinian Authority: Return of \$50 million in U.S. Direct Assistance. 25 April 2006. Accessed: 13 May 2006. [www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2006/65253.htm](http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2006/65253.htm).

<sup>731</sup> Palestinians to get interim aid, BBC News Online, 9 May 2006.

<sup>732</sup> "In kind" Medical Assistance to the Palestnians, 9 May 2006. Accessed: 13 May 2006. [www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2006/66034.htm](http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2006/66034.htm).

governments. In April 2006, the High Commissioner for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, reaffirmed the EU's commitment to aiding the Palestinian people while stating that it could not channel financial aid through Hamas, which the EU considers to be a terrorist organization.<sup>733</sup>

In line with its long-standing commitment to aiding the Palestinian people financially, the European Commission announced in April 2006 a €120 million contribution to meet the basic needs of the Palestinian people and to stabilize the financial situation of the caretaker government, recognizing the devastating impact that an economic collapse would have for the Palestinians.<sup>734</sup> Of this contribution, €40 million were directed to the support of essential public services, while a further €64 million were allocated to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to support its efforts to relieve the challenges facing the most vulnerable people in the Palestinian Territories.<sup>735</sup> The EU has also been at the forefront of efforts to establish a steady flow of aid to the Palestinian people despite the upheaval caused by the election of Hamas to the Palestinian Authority. In May 2006, the Middle East Quartet welcomed the offer of the EU to develop a temporary international mechanism through which financial assistance will be delivered directly to the Palestinian people in a transparent and accountable manner.<sup>736</sup>

In addition to its commitment to balancing financial assistance to the Palestinian people with a firm demand for reform on the part of the Palestinian Authority, the EU has continued to support security and infrastructure-building in the Palestinian territories. Since the EU-monitored border crossing was established in Rafah in November 2005, nearly 200,000 people have safely crossed between Egypt and Gaza.<sup>737</sup> The smooth monitoring and functioning of the border crossing at Rafah had previously been identified by Mr Wolfensohn as one of six issues which could “make or break” the peace process.<sup>738</sup> Furthermore, pending reform on the part of the PA, the European Council has reaffirmed the EU's commitment through financial and training mechanisms to

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<sup>733</sup> Speech by Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy: Middle East Peace Process, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 5 April 2006. Date Accessed: 15 May 2006. [europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/305&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/305&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en)

<sup>734</sup> Press Release: Benita Ferrero-Waldner European Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy: Situation in the Middle East after the Israeli elections European Parliament plenary session, European Commission (Brussels), 5 April 2006. Date Accessed: 15 May 2006. [europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/06/225&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/06/225&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en)

<sup>735</sup> Press Release: Commission Meets Palestinian President Abbas, European Commission (Brussels), 13 March 2006. Date Accessed 16 May 2006. [europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/305&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/305&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en)

<sup>736</sup> Quartet Statement, Council of the European Union (Brussels), 9 May 2006. Date Accessed: 15 May 2006. [www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressData/en/declarations/89495.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/declarations/89495.pdf)

<sup>737</sup> Speech by Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy: Middle East Peace Process, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 5 April 2006. Date Accessed: 15 May 2006. [europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/305&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/305&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en)

<sup>738</sup> Testimony of James D. Wolfensohn Quartet Special Envoy for Disengagement to the Foreign Relations Committee United States Senate, United States Senate (Washington), 30 June 2005. Date Accessed: 26 December 2005. [www.senate.gov/~foreign/testimony/2005/WolfensohnTestimony050630.pdf](http://www.senate.gov/~foreign/testimony/2005/WolfensohnTestimony050630.pdf)

strengthening the institutional fabric of the PA, recognizing the importance of a strong government to the creation of a viable, democratic Palestinian state.<sup>739</sup>

Analyst: Marie-Adele Cassola

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<sup>739</sup>Speech by Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy: Middle East Peace Process, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 5 April 2006. Date Accessed: 15 May 2006. [europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/305&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en](http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/305&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en).