

To: H.E. Mr Aharon Leshno-Yaar  
Ambassador of Israel to the European Union

20.4.2021

For the first time since 2006, Palestinians are set to go to the polls for legislative elections on 22 May, followed by a presidential election on 31 July. Holding and participating in free, fair and inclusive elections are one of the most important rights of the population in a democratic society.

As Members of the European Parliament, we welcome these upcoming elections in Palestine as we believe they can contribute to renewed democratic legitimacy of Palestinian political institutions as well as resumption of peace efforts aimed at finding a lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians. To this end, the support of the EU is pivotal and on 8th February, the EEAS sent a formal request to Israel to allow access to the occupied Palestinian territory via Israel for an EU election observation exploratory mission.

Election observation missions are a key tool for EU democracy support activities worldwide. Moreover, as a leading donor to the Palestinian Authority, contributing to the stability and the security of Israel too, the EU must be able to have access to provide support and oversight. However, so far the Israeli authorities have failed to respond and are consequently hindering the EU's support of the electoral process and observation of the elections.

Preventing the EU from supporting democracy is unacceptable, no matter where it happens. As Members of the European Parliament, we urge Israel to honour the demand made by the EU and grant access to its election observation exploratory mission in order to support and observe the upcoming Palestinian elections.

On behalf of 57 Members of the European Parliament,

Margrete Auken	Javier Nart	Rosa D'Amato
Evin Incir	Jordi Solé	Michéle Rivasi
Udo Bullmann	Alice Bah Kuhnke	David Cormand
Hilde Vautmans	Pär Holmgren	Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield
Sirpa Pietikänen	Jakop Dalunde	Pernando Barrena
Marianne Vind	Niels Fuglsang	Isabel Santos
Massimiliano Smeriglio	Saskia Bricmont	Margarida Marques
Sira Rego	Alex Agius Saliba	Milan Brglez
Aurore Lalucq	Manu Pineda	Maria Soraya Rodríguez Ramos
Martina Michels	Mounir Satouri	Sylvie Guillaume
Billy Kelleher	Tineke Strik	Bernard Guetta
Nikolaj Villumsen	Pascal Durand	Francois Alfonsi
Giuliano Pisapia	Grace O'Sullivan	Marisa Matias
Fabio Massimo Castaldo	Malin Björk	Alviina Almettä
Chris MacManus	César Luena	Ernest Urtasun
Johan Danielsson	Karen Melchior	José Gusmão
Ville Niinistö	Nicolae Stefanuta	Irena Joveva
Salima Yenbou	Norbert Neuser	Idoia Villanueva Ruiz
Younous Omarjee	Mohammed Chahim	Márton Gyöngyösi