



**BULLETIN ON THE EUROPEAN UNION
AND THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT**

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30 April 2003¹

SUBJECT	Date & place	DETAILS
7th Annual Conference of Euro-Mediterranean Government Experts on Economic Transition	Brussels 23-24/4/03	37 countries, the EU Member States and candidate countries and the Southern Mediterranean partners participated in a meeting on the impact of EU enlargement on the Mediterranean partners' economies. Case studies: Israel, Tunisia, Morocco. http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/euromed/etn/7mtg/mar.pdf
Euro-Arab-Israeli Partnership for Sustainable Water Use in Horticulture	Source: <i>Euromed Synopsis</i> , 24/4/03	Researchers in Egypt, Israel, the West Bank & Gaza Strip, Cyprus, and 4 EU Member States (Greece, Spain, Italy, and the Netherlands) have pooled resources thanks to an EU funded project to devise a common strategy for sustainable water use in horticulture. The project is part of the EU's 5th Research Framework Programme.
EU financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority	30/4/03	Following the set up of the new Palestinian government formed by prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, the European Commission announced new forms of assistance to support the reform process in the Palestinian Authority (90 million Euro) http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/gaza/news/ip03_607.htm
Publication of the Road Map	30/4/03	The destination is a final and comprehensive settlement of the Israel-Palestinian conflict by 2005, as presented in President Bush's speech of 24 June, and welcomed by the EU,

¹ The Bulletin is issued every 15th and last day of the month.

to a Permanent Two-State Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict		Russia and the UN in the 16 July and 17 September Quartet Ministerial statements. Full text: http://europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/mepp/roadmap.htm
Commission suspends preferences granted to Serbia and Montenegro with regard to sugar	30/4/03	The European Commission has suspended, for an initial period of three months, the preferential (zero) tariff on sugar imported into the European Union from Serbia and Montenegro. This decision has been taken on the basis of findings by the European Anti-fraud Office (OLAF), according to which the system currently in place in Serbia and Montenegro is totally inadequate to verify whether the sugar exported to the EU under these preferential arrangements indeed originates within Serbia and Montenegro. If necessary, the three-month suspension could be extended further. http://europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/600 0 RAPID&lg=EN;

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUBJECT	DATE&PLACE	DETAILS
The Euro-Mediterranean Civil Forum of NGOs	Chania (Crete, Greece), 7-8/5/03	On the theme of "Intercultural Dialogue"
The EU and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Hearing at the EP	Brussels, European Parliament, 8/5/03	Participants: MEP Alima Boumédiène-Thiéry (GUE/VERTS ALE) Chawki Armali (Ambassador of the Palestinian Delegation in Brussels) Michael Warschawski (Israeli writer) Joss Dray (Photographer) Eyal Sivan (Filmmaker)

5th Meeting of the Working Group on Pan-European rules of origin	Brussels, 21/5/03	The 5 th Meeting of the Working Group on the extension of the extension of Pan-European rules of origin to the Mediterranean partners. The meeting was originally planned for 26 March. For further information: Kristian.Vangrieken@cec.eu.int
EP Delegation for relations with Israel' trip to Israel	17-21 May 2003	The EP Delegation for relations with Israel goes on an official trip to Israel. Venue: King David Hotel, Jerusalem The agenda of this visit includes: meetings with Bet'selem, Peace Now, Adalah, Mosawa, different personalities of the Israeli culture, Members of Knesset, Delegation of the European Commission for Israel, Delegation of the European Commission for the West Bank and Gaza). For further details, see the attached draft agenda. The EP delegation has arranged appointments with Israeli civil society organizations (Betsalem, Adalah, Mosawa) working for the respect of human rights in the Palestinian occupied territories and for the rights of the Palestinian minority in Israel, also thanks to the facilitating efforts of several European and international NGOs, such as APRODEV (Association of World Council related Development Organisations in Europe), EMHRN (Euro-Mediteernaen Network for Human Rights), FIDH (International Federation on Human Rights), HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH, ECCP (European Coordinating Committes on the Question of Palestine), OMCT (World Organisation against Torture), SOLIDAR
European Community-PLO (for the benefit of the Palestinian Authority) Joint Committee	May-June 2003	For information, contact the Commission External Relations Directorate General, Mr. David Cullen, david.cullen@cec.eu.int