

COREPER Ambassadors accompanied by Antici visit EASO

On 4 May 2017, a delegation of COREPER Ambassadors accompanied by Antici, visited the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) Headquarters in Malta.

The delegation met with EASO's Executive Director, Jose Carreira and the Management Team of the Agency for a briefing on EASO's operational priorities in Italy and Greece, training activities and external dimension. Other topics discussed, were the newly proposed Regulations and Directive related to the Asylum Acquis, in particular the European Union Agency for Asylum.



Any further information on EASO may be obtained by contacting Mr. Jean-Pierre Schembri on the following e-mail address: jean-pierre.schembri@easo.europa.eu (follow us live on twitter @EASO).

Remarks by High Representative/Vice-President Federica Mogherini at the press point with Børge Brende, Minister for Foreign

Check against delivery!

I am very glad to host today again together with Foreign Minister [Børge] Brende of Norway the annual meeting of the Ad-Hoc Liaison Committee, to take stock as we do regularly of the Palestinian state-building process and to discuss ways to improve and sustain the Palestinian economy. This is the focus of our meeting today.

We have 28 delegations – including the United Nations, United States, Russia and key countries in the Middle East participating in this important annual meeting. It is a collective effort for us and also the only forum where both Israeli and Palestinian ministers meet together with international partners. As such, it is a very relevant forum focused on the improvement and the support to the Palestinian economy and state-building but also providing us

with good opportunities for meetings at the margins, as we just had together with minister Brende and some of the participants today.

The fact that we are hosting this meeting also underlines once again that the Middle East and the process leading to peace between Israel and Palestine remains a top priority for the European Union. The focus of our work more broadly is on how to create the conditions on the ground for a successful resumption of negotiations. Because this is our ultimate objective, an objective we share with our friends in the international community and with the parties, that the parties can re-start negotiations on a two-state solution, which in our view is the only viable way to achieve just and lasting peace.

The path to a political solution remains very clear to us: Israelis and Palestinians need to reverse the negative trends, stop settlements expansion, effectively fight incitement to violence, resolve the Palestinian divisions and urgently improve the critical humanitarian and security situation in Gaza.

Our engagement is based on the assumption that our work as donors – and as you know the European Union is the first donor – contributes to the perspective of the two states, to the political solution. The logic of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee has always been that progress on the ground and economic development cannot and should not substitute political progress, but also that political progress is very hard to achieve without a positive environment on the ground. And so by working on the positive steps on the ground we are also trying to create a positive environment for the political process to restart.

It is no secret that the situation on the ground today is not good. The gaps are wide, not easy to bridge. There is a complexity of the conflict that everybody understands, but there are also new opportunities. I am particularly encouraged by the meeting that took place yesterday in the White House between [Palestinian] President [Mahmoud] Abbas and President [of the United States, Donald] Trump.

The European Union is working very closely with the United States. We discussed this today also bilaterally with Jason Greenblatt [U.S Special Representative for International Negotiations] who is here for the United States, and with all our international partners, particularly with the Quartet, with Norway, with the region, and our partners in the region, in particular with our Arab friends on the basis of the Arab Peace Initiative as we discussed, and I personally discussed last month at the Summit of the League of Arab States in Jordan. We are trying to mobilise all our resources, not only economic but also political resources, in a combined and coordinated effort to help make renewed peace efforts successful.

Q&A

Q. Hamas announced two days before that they are accepting a Palestinian

State in the borders of 4 June 1967. I would like to have your comment and also of the minister. And what is the level of ambition of this meeting regarding the budget difficulties and the financial aspect?

FM: On the document that Hamas has made public a few days ago that – if I understand correctly – complements and does not substitute previous positions, we have seen some elements that are interesting ones. We will see what comes next in terms of actual political decisions. We have always insisted a lot, not only as the European Union but also with our partners in the Quartet, on the Palestinian unity and the need to make sure that all Palestinian people, be it in Gaza or in the West Bank, live decent lives and benefit from a better standard of living. So we will see what kind of political practical consequences some of the elements that are in this paper will bring.

In terms maybe of the ambition of today's meeting on financing, I might leave this more to my Norwegian friend that chairs the committee. But I would like to stress one point that he also very rightly made: there is a strong commitment from the European Union and Norway, so from a European side, as it has always been the case and will continue to be the case. But the donors' role or the donors' efforts alone will not solve the crisis, would not solve alone the issue. And the real thing is to feed into a political process that has to restart on the basis of negotiations, direct negotiations between the two parties and in the framework of the two-state solution. And this is also why we have used this day – the convening power that Norway and the European Union can exercise together – to have a conversation bilaterally, but also together with some of the key actors that are present today not only on the financial implications and the donors' work but also on the political horizon, especially in these days when we might see some developments coming.

Link to the
video: <https://ec.europa.eu/avservices/video/player.cfm?ref=I137727>

[Article – Open day: visit Parliament in Brussels and find out how it works](#)

Parliament opens its doors to the public in Brussels this Saturday from 10.00 to 18.00 CET. It's an opportunity to explore the plenary chamber, join a guided tour and take part in debates. In addition visitors enjoy the chance to be among the first to visit the House of European History, a new museum that is opening its doors on the same day.

Like every year, Parliament opens to the public to celebrate Europe Day, marking the [speech by French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman](#) that led to the foundation of the European Union. It allows people to visit Parliament and the other EU institutions and discover what Europe is and how it works by taking part in different activities.

Throughout the day there are guided tours in English, French, Dutch and German. There will also be three interesting debates:

11:30-12:30	Media and education in times of post-truth
12:30-13:15	Maternity leave
13:15-14:00	Free rail pass

As a special treat this year, the [House of European History](#), a new museum next to Parliament, is also launched on Saturday. Visit it to discover a treasure of artifacts and memories linked to Europe's history and the EU.

[Press release – European Parliament opens the House of European History on 6 May 2017](#)

European Parliament President Antonio Tajani officially opened the House of European History (HEH) on Thursday in a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony held in the presence of former EP president Dr Hans-Gert Pöttering (chair of the Board of Trustees) and Professor Włodzimierz Borodziej (chair of the HEH Academic Committee). The museum will be open to the public as of this Saturday 6 May.

Mr Tajani said *"This house is about the things we have in common, the events we have lived through together. This is indeed not only the House of European History, it is also the Home of European identity and European memory."*

Former EP President Hans-Gert Pöttering, Chair of the Board of Trustees of

the HEH said *“The House of European History is intended to help citizens to step into the future wisely and with confidence, a future which, from today’s standpoint, looks likely to be troubled and full of threats. It is a house which, by showing us the dynamics of European history, enables us to better understand recent history, as well as the present. “*

Professor Włodzimierz Borodziej, Chair of the HEH Academic Committee, said *“Like the Union, the work of the House of European History will never be complete. It will always remain a record of the time in which modified versions of the permanent exhibition and of the subsequent temporary exhibitions will be born. Last but not least, it will remain a record of the disputes about this, our tiny appendix of Asia, where we nest and which we have the right to be proud of.”*

The House of European History (HEH) aims to encourage citizens to reflect upon and debate about the history of Europe and of European integration. It wants to increase knowledge, arouse curiosity and, over time, become a place for the exchange of ideas, reflection and debate about Europe and its history, linking up people, institutions and networks dealing with European history. Visitors will be challenged to critically assess European history, its potential and its future.

Exhibits in the HEH permanent exhibition have been brought together from around 300 museums and collections from across Europe and beyond – please check the HEH website for more information about the exhibits and HEH partners.

“Interactions. Centuries of Commerce, Combat and Creation” is the House of European History’s first temporary exhibition. It will run until 31 May 2018. It illuminates exemplary moments and revealing stories of encounters and exchanges in European history.

The Museum also offers educational programmes; events for local and visiting publics; publications and a range of online information.

House of European History web site: <http://historia-europa.ep.eu/home>

Downloadable audio-visual material on the HEH, the building up of the collection, the permanent and temporary exhibition and the opening events: <http://audiovisual.europarl.europa.eu/house-european-history> .

People are lying in hospital corridors and Theresa May doesn’t care

Today The Times has reported that within two years, more than five million people could be waiting for NHS treatment. The paper obtained this

information from confidential documents.

I am personally appalled by this prediction, but sadly not surprised. This disgraceful situation is further evidence that the NHS is facing impossible challenges as a direct result of Tory stewardship.

Those with little money must suffer the inadequacies' of our health system: people are lying on trollies in hospital corridors and Theresa May doesn't care.

Those with a lot of money will pay to go private, and who can blame them?

The result is a disastrously unequal two-tier system, based not on people's level of need, but on their ability to pay.

Only the Liberal Democrats can steer the NHS onto a fairer course. Only we are prepared to make the bold decisions that will protect our NHS forever.