
**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 14 July 2008

11773/08 (Presse 210)

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the EU on continued settlement activity in Har Homa and Pisgat Zeev

The European Union is deeply concerned by the Israeli decision to issue a call for tenders for the construction of 920 housing units in the settlement of Har Homa, south of Jerusalem, and of 884 housing units in the settlement of Pisgat Zeev, north of Jerusalem.

This decision serves to undermine the credibility of the ongoing diplomatic process.

The European Union points out that it is illegal under international law to build settlements anywhere in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem. Settlement activities prejudice the outcome of final-status negotiations and compromise the viability of a concerted two-state solution.

The European Union calls on both parties, Israel and the Palestinian Authority, to honour the respective undertakings they again gave in Annapolis, under the Road Map, and on Israel, therefore, to freeze all settlement activity, including that for "natural growth", in East Jerusalem as well, and to dismantle unauthorised settlement outposts built since 2001.

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