EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE

The Executive Secretary-General

Brussels, 27 MARS 2013

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Note for the attention of:

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MR. J-L DEMARTY, DIR-GEN TRADE (TRADE),

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MR. P. TAVERNE, DIR-GEN INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE (IAS)

MR. T.-L. MARGUE, DIRECTOR AND HEAD OF SERVICE FOR FOREIGN POLICY INSTRUMENTS (FPI)

Subject: Denomination of Palestine

Following the UNGA Resolution 67/19 of 29 November 2013, which upgraded the status of Palestine at the United Nations to that of Non-Member Observer state, the European External Action Service (EEAS) has been receiving queries concerning whether there would be a change to the denomination of Palestine.

In a letter to the High Representative, the Palestinian Representative to the European Union, Ambassador Leila Shahid asked on behalf of President Abbas for the European Union institutions to start using the denomination 'State of Palestine' in line with the Presidential Decree of President Abbas of 3 January 2013.

In light of these developments, the EEAS has adopted the practice that the denomination 'Palestine' will be used on all occasions when referring to what to date has been referred to as 'Palestinian Authority' or 'occupied Palestinian territory'. E.g. name plates, tags, etc. (starting from the senior officials' meeting of the Union for the Mediterranean held in Brussels on 26-27 February) will henceforth reflect this change.

EU Member States have been informed of this change in practice through COREU[1]. I have also written to Ambassador Leila Shahid informing her of this development.

The EEAS underlines that this does not entail any recognition of Palestine as a state and

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[1] CFSP/EAS/0238/13

recalls the Council Conclusions on the Middle East Peace Process of 8 December 2009, where the Council declared "Recalling the Berlin declaration, the Council also reiterates its support for negotiations leading to Palestinian statehood, all efforts and steps to that end and its readiness, when appropriate, to recognise a Palestinian state."

Pierre Vimont

c.c.: D. O'Sullivan, H. Schmid, H. Mingarelli, Ch. Berger, L. Gabrici, M. Gallagher, A. Bonnici, G.-J. Van Hegelsom, L. Havas, M. Majorenko, (EEAS);
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