



May 20, 2007

H.E. Javier Solana
EU High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy
Brussels, Belgium
European Union

Dear Mr. Solana,

I refer to the letter sent to you by Israeli foreign minister Ms. Livni dated May 15, 2007 requesting the extension of the EU BAM mandate, and the letters I sent you dated May 14, and May 16, 2007, also requesting such extension.

While we look favourably upon the invitation extended by the Government of Israel to renew the EU BAM mandate, we strongly object to the annex entitled "Agreed additional arrangements and improvements" (the "Annex") for the simple reason that it has not even been communicated to, let alone agreed by, any of the parties prior to its attachment to the letter.

In the text of the letter, Ms. Livni makes the assertion that extension of the mandate is "subject to the additional arrangements and improvements agreed between us and set out in the Annex to this letter." Since the text of the Annex has not been agreed, it can only constitute a statement of opinion by the Israeli foreign minister. We hope and expect that the EU will agree with this assessment given the clear facts and not engage with either party on the basis of the Annex.

In my letter to you dated May 16, 2007, I indicated that the annexes requested by the EU BAM for the new mandate (Goods of Concern, Persons of Concern, and Transfer of Money) are being finalised through the work of the Security Working Group and the good offices of the United States Security Coordinator LTG Keith Dayton. I am therefore deeply dismayed by the approach taken by the GoI, which effectively undermines our efforts aimed at reaching reasonable, workable and good faith arrangements to all outstanding issues affecting the operation of the Rafah Crossing.

The only way forward is through bilateral agreement on the abovementioned issues. As the EU now has the formal invitation of both parties to extend the EU BAM mandate, we urge you to do so, and to allow the parties some time to finalise the annexes as requested by the EU BAM through the existing channels, and to formally dismiss the Israeli Annex.

Yours sincerely



Dr. Saeb Erekat
Head of Negotiations Affairs Department
Palestine Liberation Organization

c.c. Ambassador Marc Otte
EU Special Envoy

c.c. LTG Keith Dayton
United States Security Coordinator

c.c. LTG Pietro Pistolese
EU BAM Head of Mission