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## MONTHLY PEGASE BULLETIN

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### SUMMARY

- ◆ The crisis in the **Gaza Strip** has continued to worsen, with a severe increase in food insecurity due to rising prices and unemployment. In the **West Bank**, the olive harvest season has seen an increase in settler violence.
- ◆ In the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy, the following **EU-Palestine Sub-Committees** were held: (i) ECFIN (20 November, Brussels); (ii) Trade and Internal Market, Industry, Agriculture and Fisheries, Customs (21 November, Brussels); and (iii) Human rights, Good Governance and Rule of Law (26 November, Ramallah). Following the later, a "feedbacks" meeting with the civil society was organised on 27 November in Ramallah and Gaza.
- ◆ November marked the launching of 2 small grant facilities under the project *Improving resilience of marginalised communities in East Jerusalem*. Both initiatives are contributing to empowering women in isolated and marginalised communities and at overcoming the lack of employment opportunities for women in **East Jerusalem**.
- ◆ Five outline plans of Palestinian communities in **Area C** developed with EU funding were published by the *communities* for public objection for 60 days.
- ◆ **UNRWA** Advisory Commission meetings took place on 18-19 November in Jordan.
- ◆ A Pre-Feasibility Study on the possible launching and implementation of the institutional **Twinning Instrument** in Palestine took place on 4-20 November. Twinning operations have never been launched in Palestine.
- ◆ On 25 November, the Palestinian Ministry of Social Affairs and the EUREP Office inaugurated the new EU-funded *Juvenile Justice Project*, which aims at creating a specialised **juvenile justice system** in Palestine.
- ◆ The project kick-off meeting of the *Technical assistance to Support the Civil Service Reform in the West Bank and Gaza Strip* was held on 27 November.
- ◆ The *EU support to the Palestinian Quality Infrastructure project* was officially launched on 28 November, with the Palestinian Standards Institute as the main beneficiary institution.
- ◆ EU and MSs Heads of Cooperation met three times: on co-ordination efforts in Area C, with the PA on the progress of the new PNDP 2014-2016, and on ECHO 2014 strategy and PEGASE developments.

## **1. CONTEXT AND BILATERAL RELATIONS**

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The crisis in Gaza has continued to worsen, with a severe increase in food insecurity due to rising prices and unemployment. Since the ban of imports at the beginning of the month of construction material through Kerem Shalom, donor-funded construction projects have halted, following the collapse of private construction due to the closure of the tunnels. The fuel shortages have caused the Gaza Power Plant to stop working, resulting in power cuts of up to 16 hours per day and the failure of wastewater pumps.

In the West Bank, the olive harvest season has seen an increase in settler violence.

On 21 November, Deputy Prime Minister Mohamad Mustafa gave a debrief on the *Economic Initiative for Palestine* in support of the current "Kerry" peace process efforts to the EU Heads of Mission.

### *EU-PA policy dialogue*

A new round of the EU-Palestine **Sub Committee on ECFIN** was held in Brussels on 20 November. The agenda included issues such as (i) the macroeconomic situation; (ii) fiscal policy issues; (iii) monetary and financial sector issues; (iv) progress with Public Finance Management; (iv) statistical issues; (vi) EU-PA cooperation; and (vii) discussions on results-oriented approach of the direct financial assistance and the need for a strong Monitoring and Evaluation of policy reforms and service delivery – based on the forthcoming *Palestinian National Development Plan 2014-2016*. The discussions were open and fruitful, with a high level of preparation and representation on both sides.

The EU-Palestine **Sub-Committee on Trade and Internal Market, Industry, Agriculture and Fisheries, Customs** was held in Brussels on 21 November. Amongst the topic discussed were the "National Export Strategy" formulated by the PA with EU support, the PA strategy for the services sector, the ACAA preparation and the strategy for the Agricultural sector.

On 26 November, the EU and the PA officials meet in Ramallah to hold the **Sub Committee on Human Rights, Good Governance and the Rule of Law**, at which the Palestinian Independent Commission of Human Rights and the Bar Association also participated. The dialogue focused on actions included in the EU-Palestine Action Plan to which the PA has committed itself and which it has the ability to implement. More generally the discussions focused on a number of critical issues including torture; inhuman and degrading treatment (including conditions in places of detention); the right to life and the practice of capital punishment; the draft Penal Code; respect for the freedom of expression, assembly and association; violence against women and honour killings. As regards justice and security, exchanges touched upon the responsibilities of the different justice and security structures and the importance of promoting transparency and democratic accountability. In the area of good governance, representatives from the Palestinian side briefed the EUREP Office on developments in the area of E-governance and new guides to the legislative process including consultative procedures.

On 27 November, an exchange of views on the situation in the area of respect for human rights, democratic principles and good governance was organised by the EUREP Office with **civil society representatives** in Gaza and in Ramallah, including feedbacks on the discussion held with the authorities and contributions to the EU Progress Report on Palestine 2013 under preparation.

## **2. DIRECT FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

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Preparations are ongoing for the next EU contribution, in December 2013, to the payment of social allowances to Palestinians living in extreme poverty in the West Bank and Gaza (€10 million from the EU budget).

A Memorandum of Understanding for the implementation of a contribution of €2 million, through PEGASE DFS, to the payment of PA salaries to civil servants in the Justice sector was signed with the Netherlands on 22 November.

Spain indicated its intention to contribute to the PEGASE programme of support to Vulnerable Palestinian Families (VPF). The amount and timing of the contribution are being discussed.

### **3. EUREP FOCAL SECTORS OF INTERVENTION**

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#### **3.1 Governance Sector**

##### *3.1.1 Justice Sector*

On 20 November, the EU Representative and his Deputy met the Minister of Justice to discuss previous and future co-operation. In particular, the Minister asked for future funding for the Palestinian Judicial Institute (PJI). However, problems in implementation of a previous grant to the PJI need to be analysed first.

On 25 November, the Palestinian Ministry of Social Affairs together with the EUREP Office inaugurated the new EU-funded *Juvenile Justice Project* which aims at creating a specialised juvenile justice system in Palestine. The project's opening conference at the Red Crescent in Ramallah was attended among others by the Minister for Social Affairs, the Chief Justice and EUREP Head of Operations. Over the next 28 months, the project aims to strengthen the strategic vision of the PA and international donors in relation to juvenile justice. In particular it will help to create an institutional basis for a specialised juvenile system and to reinforce the capacities of Palestinian institutions and other actors involved in the juvenile justice sector, such as judges, lawyers and police. At the same time, it will work with those involved in the informal justice sector in order to make sure the rights of the child are respected during informal justice procedures. The project will also focus on building a culture of 'child rights' within the population and in schools, while ensuring that the Palestinian legal system reflects the notion of child protection, the best interest of children and internationally recognised rights of the child.

On 28 November, a Steering Committee meeting was held for the EU-funded grant to the Palestinian Bar Association (PBA) *Enhancing the capacity and professionalism of the lawyers' community in Palestine*. Achievements of the PBA were presented with regards to the establishment of a Unified Diploma Programme for young lawyers, in the area of continuous education and awareness raising activities. Of note during the last 2 months, 138 young lawyers benefitted from a total of 127 training sessions delivered through 82 practicing lawyers in the area of technical and legal knowledge, followed by written tests. In addition, 240 lawyers have just completed training in the topics legal editing and linguistic skills. Further 26 lawyers passed successfully ToT trainings held in Bethlehem and Ramallah. Also in this Steering Committee meeting, actions that need to be undertaken during the last months of this project in order to guarantee sustainability were identified.

##### *3.1.2 Security Sector*

During the reporting period, additional efforts were undertaken by donors to elaborate a co-ordinated approach to making progress on priority issues in the security and justice sector. On 12 November, UK, NL, US, UN together with the EUREP Office and EUPOL COPPS discussed the main concerns of the sectors and principal messages for the dialogue with the PA at various levels. The objective, from the donor side, would be to encourage a wider group of donors to align with the principles and priorities identified.

On 20 November, the EU MS Information meeting took place in EUPOL COPPS HQs in Ramallah. A general update on EUPOL COPPS' activities, as well as an update on the state of play in drafting the new sectors strategies for the Justice and Security sectors, was provided to EU MS.

As regards the building of the *Jenin correctional/rehabilitation centre*, the design concept has been finalised, approved by the main stakeholders, and shared with other interested parties working on gender issues and detention conditions. On site, works have started with excavation and setting of boundary walls.

As for the construction of *Community Police stations*, GIZ is working on the design phase and tendering procedures for works.

The *Technical Assistance Programme to support the Palestinian Civil Police (PCP)* in its efforts to build its internal capacity to secure improved performance has progressed well. Experts have worked closely during the first six months with the PCP, in collaboration with EUPOL COPPS to identify the needs and set up working groups in particular on components 1 and 2, aiming at the development of a modern monitoring and evaluation system and as well as an effective training system.

As regards the *Support to the Palestinian Civil Defence (PCD)*, the evaluation of offers submitted during the tendering procedure has been finalised, and contractual arrangements will be completed before the end of the year with a view to deploying the team of experts, who will assist PCD to build its internal capacity. The tendering procedure for the provision of equipment (i.e. the most urgent equipment for fire fighting, rescue and administrative support as per the outcome of the *Master Plan for Capital Investment* financed by the EU in 2012) has been launched on 12 November. This equipment will contribute to the improvement of the PCD sustainable institutional infrastructure capacity and expand the coverage of the civil protection services to more populations and will reduce the response time to potential incidents.

### *3.1.3 Democratic institutions*

In the framework of the EU-funded project *Support to the Central Elections Commission (CEC)*, the CEC conducted a four-day training workshop from 10-14 November on electoral legal reforms with representatives from the political parties and civil society organisations. This workshop aimed at exploring the current election laws, procedures and systems, as well as examining their suitability in the Palestinian context, taking notably into consideration the lessons learned from the local elections conducted in 2012/2013 in the West Bank. Reforming/adjusting such laws will be the responsibility of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC), frozen since 2007.

In addition, the CEC, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, started in November the first teachers' training section of the "Election awareness school" component. This training targets civic education teachers (grade 2 and grade 9) in 60 public schools and 1 private school. This component aims at increasing electoral awareness amongst teachers and students through (mock) elections. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> year that this "Election awareness school" component is implemented in the West Bank and it is expected to be finalised by December/January 2014.

### *3.1.4 Public Finance Management*

The EU liaised with the State Audit and Administrative Control Bureau (SAACB) to prepare future co-operation between the two institutions (estimated value: €2.5 million).

The *Institutional Development and Electricity Sector Reform – Phase II* project is on-going. The objective of this €2 million technical assistance project is to continue supporting the PA efforts in reducing the burden of net lending originating from the electricity sector, on the national budget and improving fiscal performances.

During the reporting period, following a request from Palestinian Electricity and Natural Resources Authority (PENRA), the EU contractors PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in co-operation with the Palestinian Electricity Regulatory Council (PERC) started with the review of the tariff calculations in order to propose a new tariff by the end of the year. Internal issues at PERC are partially being solved and PwC has re-initiated its work with the regulatory work stream, in particular, with the development of the technical department and the market overview department as well as with the drafting of the Market Model with Single Buyer. Nevertheless, some tasks cannot be finalised as they are pending the approval of the Board of Directors of PERC. Such tasks include: PERC business plan and Key Performance Indicators for distribution companies.

On the distribution work stream, PwC continued to support the Southern Electricity Company (SELCo) assisting them with the complex exercise of merging of salaries of Durra and SELCo. During the period, work continued on the development of policies and procedures for the Jerusalem Electricity Distribution Company (JDECo).

With regards to the transmission work stream, the Palestinian Electricity Transmission Company (PETL) was registered during the course of the month. PwC initiated the drafting of template commercial agreement between PETL and distribution companies and started with the drafting of the

grid code. Finally, on the generation work stream, PwC started with the preparation of demand forecast scenarios and the generation master plan.

### *3.1.5 Social Protection*

The inception report of the EU-funded project of *Technical Assistance to the Ministry of Social Affairs* was presented and approved by the first Steering Committee on 6 November. The inception report includes the work plan for the first year of the project.

### *3.1.6 Civil Service Reform*

Following the signature of contract with EURECNA S.p.A for *Technical assistance to Support the Civil Service Reform in the West Bank and Gaza Strip* on 25 November, a project kick-off meeting was held on 27 November at the General Personnel Council in Ramallah. The project has a duration of 30 months with a total funding of circa €1.4 million.

## **3.2 Private Sector Development and Trade (including TVET Support)**

The *EU support to the Palestinian Quality Infrastructure project* was officially launched on 28 November. The event was attended by the deputy Minister of National Economy, the Director of the Palestinian Standards Institute, numerous representatives of the Private sector and the press. See also Section 5.1.

The Steering Committee of the *EU support to the TVET in West Bank* met on 11 November to discuss and approve the proposals for component 2 of the Programme (*Support for enhancing technical and managerial capacities of economic sector institutions and of TVET providers*). Out of 38 proposals received from TVET provider institutions and private sector representative organisations from Bethlehem, Nablus and Hebron, 24 were approved considering the available budget and programme objectives

## **3.3 Water and Sanitation**

On 5 November, the EUREP Office participated in a visit of the *Waste Water Treatment Plant in West Nablus*. The visit was organised by the Municipality of Nablus, which has invited Representatives of the Co-ordinator of Government Activities in the Territories Unit (COGAT – Israeli Ministry of Defence), the Israeli Water Agency and the Israeli Environment agency. All parties have agreed on the quality of the facility built and expected the same results with the new wastewater treatment plant in Nablus East (funded by KfW and EU through a Delegation Agreement to KfW).

In the occasion of the UN international year of water Cooperation, the NGO/lobbyist "Ecopeace /Friends of the Earth Middle East" organised on 13-14 November a conference related to the urgency of shared water issues between Israel, Jordan and Palestine. The EUREP Office participated in the event and was part of the panel discussion about regional water and sanitation issues.

## **3.4 Other Priority Interventions**

### *3.4.1 East Jerusalem*

Within the framework of *EU support to the Yabous Cultural Centre*, a children film festival has been organised in November thanks to the newly acquired digital equipment thus making the cinema fully operational. A fully running cinema theatre in East Jerusalem is an additional step in promoting access to culture to East Jerusalemites.

November also marked the launching of 2 small grant facilities under the project *Improving resilience of marginalised communities in East Jerusalem*, one being the creation of a sewing workshop in the African community compound in the Old city, and the other being the opening of beauty salon in Issawiyeh. Both initiatives are contributing at empowering women of isolated and marginalised communities and at overcoming the lack of employment opportunities for women in East Jerusalem by granting them the opportunity to secure income and to deliver services in their communities.

### 3.4.2 Area C

On 18 November, the two consultants hired by the EUREP Office to carry out a *Study for the establishment of a comprehensive EU project monitoring system for Area C* started the second phase of their assignment. They finalised the data collection from the EU and from those EU MS that have projects in Area C. The consultants also worked on the architecture and design of the system.

Five outline plans of Palestinian communities in Area C (Imneizel, Harmala, Um Lahem, Ras Tira/Daba'a and Wadi El Nis) developed with EU funding were published by the communities for public objection for 60 days.

OCHA submitted a report about EU and EU MS funded structures that were demolished by the Israeli Authorities during the month of October 2013. 2 structures funded by EU ECHO were demolished in Area C in the village of Mak-hul. 9 structures funded by EU ECHO, France, Sweden, Spain and by the multi-donor Emergency Response Fund (ERF) received demolition or stop-work orders. So far in 2013 a total of 45 EU and EU MS funded structures were demolished by the Israeli Authorities.

See also Section 5.1.

### 3.4.3 UNRWA

Although EU financial support to UNRWA is not part of the *Palestinian National Development Plan 2011-2013*, ongoing proactive steps have been taken by the EUREP Office and EU MS towards enhancing UNRWA's credibility, budget clarity, and decision-making.

The EUREP Office attended UNRWA Advisory Commission (AdCom) meetings which took place on 18-19 November at the Dead Sea in Jordan. The structure and agenda of the November AdCom remained unchanged; however discussions and side-meetings on the margins of the AdCom were notably candid. The AdCom acknowledged the importance of taking advantage of UNRWA's Medium Term Strategy (2016-2021 MTS) development process to squarely set the Agency's strategic direction, to identify needs and to ensure the continued effectiveness and sustainability of the Agency, bearing in mind the Agency's limited resources throughout the strategic period. AdCom recommendations were conclusive in supporting common (MS and donors) goals for the MTS as means to addressing UNRWA's challenges, unsustainable financial structure and realignment of core programmes. The EU statement, delivered on behalf of all MS, was appreciated by all for its candour and clarity in holding UNRWA, hosts and donors to their respective responsibilities.

## 4. OTHER SECTORS

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### **4.1 Social, Culture and Cross-cutting**

#### *4.1.1 Education*

Nothing to report.

#### *4.1.2 Health*

Nothing to report.

#### *4.1.3 Culture and Heritage*

On 13 November, the Centre for Cultural Heritage Preservation, in collaboration with Bethlehem University, hosted the launch of the book 'Mediterranean Cultural Heritage, a Manual for Good Practice'. This book focuses on the Mediterranean region and collects, edits, exposes and summarises results of and recommendations from the *Euromed Heritage IV programme* (2008-2013), a regional programme funded by the EU. See also Section 5.2.

#### *4.1.4 Gender Equality*

On 6 November, the EUREP Office HoC met with the representative of UN Women Palestine to discuss cooperation and gender challenges in East Jerusalem.

On 13 November, the EUREP Office met with the Chief of UN Women Audit Section in HQs to discuss the relationship between the EU and UN Women in Palestine and the implementation of the two joint EU-funded programmes (*Financing for Gender Equity* and *Spring Forward for Women*), partly implemented by UN Women in Palestine.

On 14 November, discussions were held with the expert conducting the Result Oriented Monitoring mission of the above-mentioned project *Spring Forward for Women*.

#### *4.1.5 Youth*

Nothing to report.

### **4.2 Civil Society**

#### *4.2.1 Protection and promotion of Human rights and fundamental freedoms (EIDHR)*

Nothing to report.

#### *4.2.2 Promotion of the Middle East Peace Process (EU Partnership for Peace)*

A contract with AETS for the evaluation of the *Partnership for Peace* programme was launched on 13 November. The evaluation will assess the impact of the programme and will provide recommendations for the new programming 2014-2020, according to new needs and lessons learned. A final report is expected in April 2014.

#### *4.2.3 Civil society in local development (NSA-LA)*

Nothing to report.

### **4.3 Food Security and Land development**

The EU is supporting the drafting of the "Olive and Olive Oil Strategy" in close coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC; the main donor in this sub-sector together with the EU). The first draft of the Strategy was discussed in November within the Olive and Olive Oil Thematic Group that is chaired by the MoA, and its final version is expected to be available by January 2014. Once adopted by the MoA the Strategy will feed the National Agricultural Sector Strategy 2014-2016.

The EUREP Office has contracted a consultancy firm to perform a MoA training needs assessment to implement of the Agriculture Assistance West Bank(AAWB) and Private Sector Reconstruction Gaza – Agriculture (PSRG-A) programmes. Its findings will help the training programme to develop the skills needed to implement the above mentioned programmes. The exercise is expected to be finalised in February 2014.

### **4.4 Other Instruments**

#### *4.4.1 Instrument for Stability (IfS)*

##### *Kerem Shalom Gaza border crossing (€13 million)*

Following additional discussions and meetings, the location site was confirmed but the process of executing works has not started yet. Further meetings with the relevant PA stakeholders were needed to clarify the situation both for works and payment procedures.

##### *Gaza socio-economic package (€25 million)*

Nothing to report.

#### *4.4.2 Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument (TAIEX) and Twinning*

A Pre-Feasibility Study on the possible launching and implementation of the Institutional Twinning Instrument in Palestine took place on 4-20 November. Twinning operations have never been launched in Palestine and this consultancy aimed at studying the feasibility of using such a tool in Palestine – in coherence and complementarity with TAIEX, another EU-funded instrument critical in providing institution building support and regularly used in Palestine.

#### 4.4.3 Other

The Minister of Transport has attended the 'Union for Mediterranean (UfM) Ministerial Conference on Transport' of the 14 November in Brussels, organised by the EU, the UfM and Jordan. Amongst other matters were also included the Master Plan for Palestine financed under the Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership (FEMIP) and managed by the European Investment Bank. The Minister recognised the importance of this project and the need to progress swiftly.

## 5. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

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### **5.1 Donor Co-ordination**

Three **EU Heads of Cooperation (HoCs) meetings** were organised in November. Next EU HoC meeting will be on 10 January 2014.

(i) The first meeting focused on the progress in planning and zoning of Palestinian communities in Area C. UN Habitat notably presented the EU funded programme *Spatial Planning Support Programme for Palestinian Communities in Area C* that is supporting Palestinian communities in Area C in the elaboration of outline plans.

(ii) The second meeting was organised in Ramallah on 25 November and gave an update of the progress on the *Palestinian National Development Plan (PNDP) 2014-2016*. This was the third 2013 EU HoCs meeting entirely devoted to the *PNDP 2014-2016* (in addition to the EU HoCs Retreat that also had a session on the Plan). The final *PNDP* should be ready by early 2014.

(iii) The third meeting took place on 29 November and discussed ECHO's new strategy for 2014 (€29.5 million). ECHO explained that its main angle of intervention in Palestine is protection (not humanitarian needs as traditionally the case) and that its interventions include assistance and collection of evidence of consequences of human rights' violations (related notably to demolitions and evictions). The increased complementarity between the PRDP Trust Fund (managed by the World Bank) and the Pégase Direct Financial Support (DFS) was also discussed. These are currently the two main reliable instruments in Palestine providing direct financial assistance to the PA's budget. Pégase DFS's forthcoming evaluation (covering February 2011 to December 2013) will start in January 2014 and will look at the current efforts to develop a common results-oriented framework (policy and service delivery reforms).

The **EU Informal Interest Group "PEGASE Direct Financial Support"** met on 29 November. The agenda of the meeting focused on the presentation of new PEGASE windows – the Assistance to Agriculture West Bank (AAWB), and the Private Sector Reconstruction in Gaza Agriculture (PSRG-A), as well as a presentation on the Social Protection.

#### Local aid co-ordination (Strategy Groups)

In the absence of an official donors' meeting called by the Ministry of National Economy, the EU convened an **informal donors 'co-ordination meeting'** to exchange information among donors involved in the **Private Sector** that could feed into the EU 2014 programming. The Quartet presented the *Economic Initiative for Palestine* in support of the current "Kerry" peace process efforts. The MAS Institute presented their recent initiative: *Beyond Aid, a Palestinian Private Sector Initiative for Investment, Growth and Employment*.

On 21 November, the Minister of Health (Dr. Asad Awad) and the Representative of WHO (acting as the Ministry of Health main technical partner) presented an update on the development of the "National Health Strategic Plan (NSHP): strategic objectives, policies and programmes". The NSHP is being developed around five main strategic objectives and three health sector programmes. The donors and stakeholders present mostly suggested including in the NSHP health emergency services, gender issues, mental health, disabilities, family health, community involvement, as well as for an improved integration of other health care providers in Palestine, namely UNRWA, NGOs and private providers.

## **5.2 Information, Communication and Visibility**

On 1 November, the EUREP Office and Journalists without Borders (JWB) launched a youth initiative "Beautiful Palestine" in partnership with young Palestinian journalists and photographers in an effort to discover and promote different historic and touristic sites in the West Bank. In the course of November and December, Palestinian youth will carry out voluntary activities in four (not five?) locations in Nablus, Bethlehem, Salfit, Tulkarem and Jericho governorates and report on their experiences in an effort to promote domestic tourism. This initiative, which is part of the EUREP Office's public diplomacy work, has taken place so far in Old city of Nablus (1/11), Wadi Foukin in Bethlehem (15/11), Banat Yacoub in Tulkarem (29/11) with the participation of more than 300 young Palestinians and reporting in all local media.

On 13 November, the Centre for Cultural Heritage Preservation in collaboration with Bethlehem University, hosted the launch of 'Mediterranean Cultural Heritage, a Manual for Good Practice' which was realised through support from the EU regional programme EuroMed Heritage. The event was patronised by the Minister of Tourism, attended by the EUREP Office and all stakeholders involved in Palestinian cultural heritage and covered by local media.

The EU Representative and Palestinian Deputy Minister of Justice Counsellor Khalil Kharajeh gave a press conference at the closing of the fifth annual *EU Palestinian policy dialogue on human rights, good governance and the rule of law* held in Ramallah on 26 November. All local media covered the conclusions of the meeting with both parties confirming that concrete follow-up has been agreed to address concerns in the course of next year.