



EU-policy in the Middle East and the indirect funding of anti-Semitic Terror-attacks

Excerpts from a speech, Ilka Schröder¹ gave on the occasion of receiving the Theodor-Lessing-Price for Informative Action on September 25, 2003 in Hannover, Germany

[...] The European Union views Gaza, the West Bank and Eastern Jerusalem as Palestine, Israel considers the status as unsolved by international law until there is a permanent peace agreement. The EU now wants to force its view onto Israel by imposing higher taxes on products from the so called "occupied territories" and Eastern Jerusalem. But not all products. **The EU only wants to impose such taxes on those products, produced by Jews [...]**

[...] The manner in which Israel is accused – not only of illegally exporting chives [and other agricultural produce] into the EU – is that of a deceived good-natured person finally losing patience. One really made efforts to forgive Israel its existence. But this state just isn't willing to gratefully lay down its arms and surrender to the will of Europe's protégé Arafat. Therefore, members of the European Parliament – that luckily doesn't call too many shots – demand that the associative agreement with Israel be cancelled. The Commission is more relaxed, it's trading with Israel while at the same time it finances the Palestinian war. [...]

[...] Those are not just some insignificant backbenchers in an anyway not very important European Parliament who are inciting against Israel; and anti-Zionism isn't just Commissioner Christopher Patten's hobby horse. The growth of the anti-Americanism and anti-Zionism in Europe and the increase of anti-Semitic attacks in Europe show, that there is a menacing alliance of official policy and a widespread common sense.

[...] That the European Union's support for the PA was not spent properly is an open secret in the Parliament and the Commission. Nevertheless, there was quite a lot of resistance against creating a investigating committee. That's no wonder, considering the European policy in this area. In this war – and it is a war against Israel, waged by the PA – the EU is anything but a neutral observer. Since the early 1990s the EU tries – based on excellent Relationships the Federal German Republic has to most Arab countries – to become a major player in the region. [...] Since 1992 the EU made itself the protective power of the Palestinians. In this, the EU not only acts as a united federacy, but several member states distinguish themselves – on the level of diplomatic unfriendliness against Israel through direct support of Palestinian institutions.

On the outside institutions of the European Union always state they – absolutely evenhandedly – ask both sides to stay peaceful. But reading the resolutions, observing EU policy one knows this is not the case. Just having a look at the exhibitions in the EP's foyer, where Israel is accused of Sociocide and branded an Apartheid state² to know which side the EU takes. While the Israeli side is again and again confronted with demands and every step it takes is commented on and criticized in detail, the PA is only required abstractly to act to prevent attacks. Suicide attacks really are no-no, even if commissioned by just those institutions which are paid for by the EU. One is really very understanding and therefore, one can have one's doubts that EU officials in their meetings with Hamas, Fatah and other killer gangs insist on talking at length about suicide attacks.

[...] I would like to show with an especially striking example what EU policy is. The EU supports Mediterranean States with the MEDA programme. This programme suddenly became important when shortly after the start of the Al-Aqsa Intifada Isarel decided not to forward certain tax money to the PA and not to provide certain services as it did before, but to freeze all this. The Israeli government justified this breach of contract with the PA's paying for terrorist activities with just this money. In that situation the Europeans didn't decide – as one might think – to get to the bottom of the case and check whether the claims made against the recipient of so much European money are real. Rather, those claims were flatly dismissed as "Israeli propaganda". Late in 2000 the decision was made to quickly make available further 90 million Euros for the PA, even though conditioned on, i.e., proper control.³ Even though the PA stated to obey to the rules, rather the opposite was the case. That didn't prevent the EU foreign ministers in June 2001 to provide the PA with 10 million Euros each month directly paid budget. These direct payments constitute more than 10 percent of the PA budget. [...] That's direct support, i.e. general support, not for a specific purpose.

[...]In addition, the new textbooks for schools, published by the PA and financed by different European countries, are not free of antisemitic clichés.[...]

The EU as a confederation wants the internationalisation of the conflict in order to underline the need for its own mediating role. The longer the conflict continues and the deeper it gets, the more evident becomes the European version of the US' incapability to moderate the peace process. The EU thus concludes that both sides are in need of the good uncle from Europe with its democratic and ecological values, its welfare state and civil society to resolve this conflict. How good for both sides that there is a Europe and how bad for the world that one side, which is Israel, can afford a wild west type of policy in the style of the US. There is no difference in the consciousness of an average Member of the European Parliament and an average German peace demonstrator and I consider this to be a mixture of naivete, moralism, anti-Americanism, anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism as an altogether serious danger.

The role of the UN within this context is also extremely questionable. Not only is the United Nations Agency for Palestinian refugees doing everything in order to keep the refugee problem unresolved – in close cooperation with Arab states – and thus provides the PA the means to block any serious peace process by insisting on the "right to return". If you look at UN resolutions on the Middle East, the permanent one-sided condemnation of Israel, the exclusion of Israel from important UN bodies, the ignorance of the actions of Arab states and the P A, the siding of UN institutions with the PLO like the Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People - all of it shows that the spirit of the 1975 Resolution that held Zionism to be racism has remained the same even if the tone has become more moderate. [...]



If you wanted to question the legitimacy of a defence of Israel against its Arab and Palestinian neighbours on the grounds that Israel is engaged in a defensive fight against an anti-Semitic national project, then you would portray Israel as the real aggressor and you would try to equate the suffering of the Palestinians with the Shoah. This recasting does not bear the light of a reasonable analysis of facts, and in my opinion this is exactly the secret about the immunity against facts and arguments. You can talk forever, pile up facts, bring forward one argument after another, but you will not be able to alter the determination to consider the Palestinians as victims. These are the limits of Enlightenment, not only within the European Parliament [...]

The greatest danger today is that the globalisation critique, anti-Americanism and anti-Zionism which exist in the heads of millions of people is amalgamated into a common sense which is supported and used by European policy.

Incomplete overview on payments to the Palestinian Authority territories and refugee camps

(compiled by Ilka Schröder's MEP office, Brussels, April 2004. No guarantee on the correctness of the data used.)

These numbers are always based on details given by the donors. Out of principle the budget estimate is always mentioned, which in some cases differs considerably from funds actually retrieved. Wherever considerably less money was retrieved the EU at least allows for the possibility to retrieve those funds during the following year. Where it is unclear whether payments possibly went to the PA or the UNRWA, these payments are not listed – nevertheless, the numbers are quite high.

Support for the Palestinian Authority

2000-2003: within the framework of the Oslo Agreements	187 million Euros ⁴
2000-2003: MEDA (Mediterranean Coast Countries)	328 million Euros ⁵
2000/2001: (since shelved) GASP (e.g. counter-terrorism)	3.4 million Euros ⁶
total	518.4 million Euros

Problems: Staff had to pay up to 15% membership fees to Fatah, which in turn runs the Al-Aqsa Brigades. On the PA payroll are persons wanted by Israel for terrorism; Israel accuses [PA] police and security services of training and equip suicide terrorists. Payments are in part done cash, according to IMF reports, so tendentially they can't be supervised. According to the *Wall Street Journal* (Dec. 1st, 2003), "at least 8% (\$135 million) of the PA's annual budget of \$1.08 billion is being spent by Arafat at his sole discretion. [...] And the report does not even take into account Arafat's control of 60% the security apparatus budget, leaving him with at least \$360 million per year to spend as he chooses. The report concludes in addition, \$ 900 million in PA revenues 'disappeared' between 1995-2000, and that the 2003 budget for Arafat's office, which totaled \$ 74 million, had \$ 34 million missing that were transferred by Arafat to pay unidentified 'organizations' and 'individuals'." (Wall Street Journal, Dec. 11, 2003). To this day there is – despite corresponding propagandistic lies by Foreign Relations Commissioner Patten – no IMF supervision of the PA budget.

Humanitarian aid: UNRWA (United Nations Relief Works Agency)

2000-2003 European Union	US\$ 244.4 million
2000-2003 EU member states (EURO 25.7 million from Germany)	US\$ 372.57 million
total	US\$ 616.97 million

To that are added funds by ECHO (European Community for Humanitarian Aid Office) of 97 million Euros which in part went to UNRWA and in part to other recipients

Problems: Refugee organization UNRWA in co-operation with Arab states provides for the 'refugee problem' to remain unsolved. UNRWA must accept the accusations that these camps in the meantime work as some kind of training camps for anti-Semitic terror against Israel. Lots of suicide bombers came from these refugee camps.⁷ Inside these camps weaponry and explosives are manufactured, several anti-Semitic terror organizations are able to move freely, recruit members and train suicide bombers. It even happened that UNRWA ambulances tried to smuggle suicide bombers and munitions through Israeli checkpoints.⁸ Squares inside the refugee camps are named after suicide bombers. In 250 UNRWA run schools in the West Bank and Gaza textbooks are used negating Israel's existence and promoting hate against Israel and the Jews.⁹ Even food donations were sold by Palestinian Officials on free markets; it's not clear whether the profits from those sales went into private purses or into PA war coffers – or both.

Added are £ 1.2 billion Sterling from the World Bank in 2002 and 2003.¹⁰ Several newspaper reports show that some EU member states paid bigger sums to independent parts of the PA (e.g. the ominous "NSU"). Due to – among others – Swedish and Dutch refusal to give any details it was impossible to identify the amount of support from single states for e.g. the printing of textbooks etc. Nevertheless, it's known that e.g. lawyers filing suit against Israel's security fence at the International Court of Justice were paid with European funds meant to be allocated to strengthening the peace process.¹¹ Other donors mainly were Arab states, temporarily paying up to US\$ 55 million per month. But it must be mentioned that the PA through its War had considerable less income (tax, freeze of custom fees by Israel etc.).

¹ Ilka Schröder is Member of the European Parliament

² "... while an exhibition on the turkish genocide of the Armenians in 1917 was forbidden, because of fear that it might be of controvesiral".

³ http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/reports/aidco_2000_annual_report_meda_en.pdf, p. 76

⁴ Budgetline B7-4200.

⁵ Budgetline B7-4100 (MEDA)

⁶ Budgetline B8-012/3 (CFSP)

⁷ "UNRWAs Relationship to the Palestinians", Fact Sheet No. 3, The Prism Group, January 2003. www.theprismgroup.org.

⁸ "Israel accuses UNRWA of ignoring terrorism in Palestinian refugee camps", by Nathan Guttman, Haaretz, June 28, 2002: www.NahostFocus.de, December 11, 2002, "Israel sees U.N. camps as hotbeds of revolt", by Dina Shiloh, San Francisco Chronicle, May 19, 2002, www.sfgate.com.

⁹ *ibid.*

¹⁰ The Scotsman, February 29, 2004

¹¹ The Wall Street Journal Europe, March 2nd, 2004.

Compilation by: Honestly-Concerned - a group of concerned individuals willing to stand up for fair and unbiased media reporting, especially about the Middle-East conflict, and who are fighting hard against anti-semitic rhetoric.

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