



EU BAM Rafah

European Union Border Assistance Mission Rafah

Subject: “4th Coordination and Evaluation Committee” meeting on 18 December, 10.00 hrs in Jerusalem at the Delegation of the European Commission, George Adam Smith Street no. 5, Sheik Jarrah – French Hill

Reference: 1) “Agreed Arrangement on the European Union Border Assistance Mission at the Rafah Crossing Point on the Gaza-Egypt border”, Art. III, Para 6,
2) Previous “Coordination and Evaluation Committee” meeting on 20 November 2006, in Jerusalem (Delegation of the EC)

Date: 18 December 2006

AGENDA:

I. Welcome of the parties and opening the Meeting

Talking Points:

- General thanks and welcome.
- Rafah Crossing must be open to full capacity with normal operations, especially with the upcoming pilgrimage season.
- Rafah is a Palestinian-Egyptian crossing and Israel has no right to close it.
- Each closure of Rafah is an Israeli breach of its commitments under the APRC.

II. Approval of the Agenda and Minutes of previous Meeting

Talking Points:

- It is important for the EUBAM to prepare and circulate minutes of CEC meetings. Agreed minutes can then constitute the official record and protocol of the meetings.
- Request EUBAM to circulate minutes of last meetings and this meeting for approval of parties.

III. Items for this meeting:

3.1 Adherence to APRC provisions on continuous operation of RCP

Talking Points:

- Israel is consistently closing Rafah in contravention of the agreement.
- Palestinian performance, to the extent we have been allowed to operate, has been excellent and in accord with international standards.
- The biggest security risk to Rafah is due to Israeli breach of the APRC by refusing to allow normal operation of the crossing, and to the continued Israeli closure of Kerem Shalom Crossing for imports from or through Egypt.
- Israel must sign the Customs Protocol and open Kerem Shalom immediately. This will improve the operations at Rafah.

3.2 Procedures for dealing with non-PA ID card holders

➤ Duration of exceptional categories

Talking Points:

- We are in favour of extending the procedures for exceptional categories.

3.3 Registry of PA ID card holders (Status of complete list to be submitted by GOI to the PA)

Talking Points:

- Israel has failed to provide us with an updated population registry including complete information on Palestinians currently outside the country.
- We insist that Israel must fulfil its obligation to provide a complete update of: *“all information needed to update the Palestinian population registry, including all information on Palestinian ID card holders who are currently outside the country”* as agreed in the APRC and the Protocol on Security Implementation Procedures.

3.4 PA definitions for the excepted categories according the Protocol on Security Implementation Procedures (2nd bullet

Talking Points:

- Israeli objections are unreasonable and illegitimate given the “exceptional

cases” encountered at Rafah. This should not be a significant issue.

- Nonetheless, we are responding in good faith to your request for definitions of the excepted categories.
- The final list is hereby made available to the EUBAM.

3.5 Customs related issue

- GOI signature and implementation of Customs Protocol (agreed in Feb 2006) allowing for commercial imports through Kerem Shalom

Talking Points:

- Israel must abide by its obligations: to sign and implement the Customs Protocol and open the KSCP for commercial import from and through Egypt according to the agreed procedures. This will significantly limit smuggling at the RCP and enhance security.
- IF THE ISSUE OF MONEY TRANSFER IS RAISED: There is no legal basis for the prevention of large sums of cash through the crossing as long as it is consistent with legal and administrative procedures.
- Palestinians are applying Israeli import policy at the crossing, as per the Paris Protocol.
- Palestinian Customs forms and official procedures for declaring money brought in have been approved and are hereby made available to the EUBAM.

3.6 Maintenance of technique / equipment at RCP

- Optic fibre cable trenched (images and data transfer from terminal to LO)
- Import of Egyptian donation N° 4221 through KSCP to RCP (state of art)

Talking Points:

- EGYPTIAN DONATION: this has been blocked by Israel for months.
- At the last CEC meeting, Israel undertook to allow Egyptian donation to move to Rafah crossing (within 2 weeks)
- The donation is still in Egypt. We need this equipment immediately.

3.7 Miscellaneous