

## Statement by 50 former European leaders:

### “Grave concern about US plan for Israeli-Palestinian conflict”

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**To: European Foreign Ministers and EU High Representative/Vice-President Josep Borrell**

26 February 2020

Dear honoured colleagues,

As Europeans dedicated to promoting international law, peace and security worldwide, we express our deep concern about President Trump’s Middle East plan, titled “Peace to Prosperity”.

The plan contradicts internationally agreed parameters for the Middle East peace process, relevant UN resolutions, including Security Council Resolution 2334, and the most fundamental principles of international law. Instead of promoting peace, it risks fuelling the conflict – at the expense of Israeli and Palestinian civilians alike and with grave implications for Jordan and the wider region. It has been met with widespread opposition in the region, in Europe and in the United States.

The plan allows for annexation of large and vital parts of the occupied Palestinian territory and legitimises and encourages illegal Israeli settlement activity. It recognises only one side’s claims to Jerusalem and offers no just solution to the issue of Palestinian refugees. It projects a future Palestinian “state” without control and sovereignty over its fragmented territory. The map featured in the plan proposes Palestinian enclaves under permanent Israeli military control, which evoke chilling associations with South Africa’s *bantustans*.

“Peace to Prosperity” is not a roadmap to a viable two-state solution, nor to any other legitimate solution to the conflict. The plan envisages a formalisation of the current reality in the occupied Palestinian territory, in which two people are living side by side without equal rights. Such an outcome has characteristics similar to apartheid – a term we don’t use lightly.

The international community, particularly the European Union, must prevent such a scenario from unfolding, in order to preserve the dignity and rights of the Palestinians, the future of Israeli democracy and the wider international rules-based order.

We welcome the statement by EU High Representative Josep Borrell stressing the EU’s continued commitment to a two-state solution based on the 1967 borders, in accordance with the international parameters. We fully agree with the EU that Israeli “steps towards annexation, if implemented, could not pass unchallenged”, as they would impair the fundamental international norm banning the acquisition of territory by force.

Considering the urgency of the situation, we call on Europe to reject the US plan as a basis for negotiations and to take immediate and effective steps to counter the threat of annexation – and thereby preserve the international rules-based order.

Yours respectfully,

**Douglas Alexander**, *Former Minister of State for Europe and Secretary of State for International Development, United Kingdom*

**Ben Bradshaw**, *Former Minister of State for the Middle East, United Kingdom*

**Gro Harlem Brundtland**, *Former Prime Minister, Norway*

**John Bruton**, *Former Prime Minister, Ireland*

**Micheline Calmy-Rey**, *Former Foreign Minister and President, Switzerland*

**Ingvar Carlsson**, *Former Prime Minister, Sweden*

**Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz**, *Former Foreign Minister and Prime Minister, Poland*

**Daniel Cohn-Bendit**, *Former Co-President of the European Greens-European Free Alliance Group in the European Parliament, Germany*

**Joe Costello**, *Former Minister of State for Trade and Development and Chair of the European Affairs Committee, Ireland*

**Willy Claes**, *Former Foreign Minister and NATO Secretary General, Belgium*

**Massimo d'Alema**, *Former Foreign Minister and Prime Minister, Italy*

**Teresa Patrício de Gouveia**, *Former Foreign Minister, Portugal*

**Dominique de Villepin**, *Former Foreign Minister and Prime Minister, France*

**Ruth Dreifuss**, *Former President, Switzerland*

**Alan Duncan**, *Former Minister of State for Europe and the Americas and Minister of State for International Development, United Kingdom*

**Espen Barth Eide**, *Former Foreign Minister, Norway*

**Jan Eliasson**, *Former Foreign Minister and UN General Assembly President, Sweden*

**Uffe Ellemann-Jensen**, *Former Foreign Minister and President of the European Liberals, Denmark*

**Benita Ferrero-Waldner**, *Former Foreign Minister and European Commissioner for External Relations, Austria*

**Sigmar Gabriel**, *Former Foreign Minister and Vice-Chancellor, Germany*

**Peter Hain**, *Former Minister of State for the Middle East, United Kingdom*

**Lena Hjelm-Wallén**, *Former Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, Sweden*

**Trinidad Jiménez**, *Former Foreign Minister, Spain*

**Tom Kitt**, *Former Minister of State for Overseas Development and Human Rights, Ireland*

**Bert Koenders**, *Former Foreign Minister, the Netherlands*

**Martin Liedegaard**, *Former Foreign Minister, Denmark*

**Mogens Lykketoft**, *Former Foreign Minister and UN General Assembly President, Denmark*

**Sven Mikser**, *Former Foreign Minister, Estonia*

**Per Stig Møller**, *Former Foreign Minister, Denmark*

**Holger K. Nielsen**, *Former Foreign Minister, Denmark*

**Andrzej Olechowski**, *Former Foreign Minister, Poland*

**Marc Otte**, *Former EU Special Representative to the Middle East Peace Process, Belgium*

**Chris Patten**, *Former Vice-President of the European Commission, United Kingdom*

**Hans-Gert Pöttering**, *Former President of the European Parliament, Germany*

**Jacques Poos**, *Former Foreign Minister, Luxembourg*

**Vesna Pusić**, *Former Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, Croatia*

**Mary Robinson**, *Former President and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ireland*

**Jacques Santer**, *Former Prime Minister and President of the European Commission, Luxembourg*

**Karel Schwarzenberg**, *Former Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, Czech Republic*

**Robert Serry**, *Former UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, the Netherlands*

**Javier Solana**, *Former Foreign Minister, NATO Secretary General and EU High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy, Spain*

**Michael Spindelegger**, *Former Foreign Minister and Vice-Chancellor, Austria*

**Jack Straw**, *Former Foreign Secretary, United Kingdom*

**Gareth Thomas**, *Former Minister of State for International Development, United Kingdom*

**Erkki Tuomioja**, *Former Foreign Minister, Finland*

**Ivo Vajgl**, *Former Foreign Minister, Slovenia*

**Jozias van Aartsen**, *Former Foreign Minister, the Netherlands*

**Frank Vandenbroucke**, *Former Foreign Minister, Belgium*

**Hubert Védrine**, *Former Foreign Minister, France*

**Sayeeda Warsi**, *Former Cabinet Minister and Foreign Office Minister for the United Nations, Human Rights and the ICC, United Kingdom*