



**On the eve of the UN General Assembly, the European Jewish Congress (EJC) urgently calls upon European leaders to stand firm in their commitment to the principles of the Oslo Accords:**

## **ONLY A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT CAN BRING LASTING PEACE TO THE MIDDLE EAST**

### **UNILATERAL ACTION THREATENS REGIONAL STABILITY AND THE HOPE FOR A PEACEFUL FUTURE**

Along with millions of Europeans, the EJC supports a negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict toward a two-state solution. In the coming days, European nations will be asked to recognize a unilaterally declared Palestinian state. Such a declaration would contravene signed agreements, legal commitments and official statements, and may well result in further conflict rather than peace.

In recent weeks, the EJC corresponded with EU leaders from Spain, Germany, Austria, France, Norway, the United Kingdom, among others, all of whom agree that negotiations are the only viable way to achieve a lasting peace in the Middle East; noting that unilateral steps would harm the peace process.

**At this critical juncture, the fortitude and leadership of Europe are called for.** This is the time to uphold the hard-won commitments of the past twenty years that provide a foundation for peaceful resolution. The Oslo Accords, witnessed and signed by the European Union, among others, stated in Article 31 that: "Neither side shall initiate or take any step that will change the status of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip pending the outcome of the permanent status negotiation."

**This is not the time to act outside of the boundaries of international agreements,** or to unleash expectations that may lead to disastrous consequences for Palestinians and Israelis, and for the region as a whole.

**This week, the eyes of the world will look to Europe.** The EJC urges the European community to leverage its unique standing in the UN and its historic role in the Middle East to keep the peace process alive and to sustain hope among those who yearn for a peaceful future.