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EXTERNAL RELATIONS DIRECTORATE GENERAL
DIRECTORATE Middle East, Southern Mediterranean
Near East

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Russell Tribunal on Palestine
115 Rue Stévin
B 1000 Brussels
Belgium

The Organising Committee of the Russell Tribunal on Palestine,

Thank you for your invitation to the President of the European Commission Barroso to participate in the session of the Russell Tribunal that will be organized at the end of November. He has asked me to reply on his behalf.

Regretfully, the President of the European Commission will not be able to participate in the second international session of the Russell Tribunal on Palestine.

The EU attaches the utmost importance to the respect of International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law. In its last statement of 21 September, the Middle East Quartet reiterated its call on all parties to respect International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law.

As mentioned by President Barroso during his meeting with Palestinian Prime Minister Fayyad in July, the EU stands firm on its full support to the goal of two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security, as part of a just and comprehensive peace. Our strong commitment and support for a just negotiated solution has also recently been reiterated to President Abbas and Prime Minister Netanyahu by High Representative Ashton during her visits to the region.

I take this opportunity to wish you good luck with the proceedings of your Conference.

Yours Sincerely,

Ilkka UUSITALO
Head of Unit