

Jerusalem and Brussels. June 17th, 2007. The events of the past few days demonstrate the need for a third, non violent and democratic power in the Palestinian Territories that reflects the majority of society. The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) in East Jerusalem has taken on the task of promoting moderate political alternatives through a number of projects. A part of this task is cooperation with the Palestinian National Initiative (Al-Mubadara).



*Palestinian Minister of Information Mustafa Barghouthi with EU Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighborhood Policy Benita Ferrero-Waldner in a press conference in Brussels on June 12th*

In this context, the FES conducted an informational trip to Europe with high-ranking Mubadara leaders aimed at establishing direct cooperation between the EU and the National Unity Government. International cooperation can provide a foundation for further development in the Middle East and assistance to the Palestinian National Authority

Another accomplishment of the trip, in which Palestinian Minister of Information Mustafa Barghouthi took part, was building international networks between Al-Mubadara and the Social Democratic Party of Germany as well as other center-left European political parties. International networking helped to further develop the Al-Mubadara platform and open communications to break the isolation of the Palestinian people. The visit was successful in spite of the early end to the trip following the deteriorating situation in the Gaza Strip.

The trip to Europe created the basis for closer international cooperation between European parties and democratic and non violent Palestinians. Al-Mubadara and the European Commission have established administrative connections.

Dr. Mustafa Barghouthi consulted with EU Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighborhood Policy Benita Ferrero-Waldner and is pictured above. Other center-left parties in Europe including the British Labour Party met with Mubadara representatives and showed support for a strong moderate presence in the Palestinian Territories.

During the trip Dr. Barghouthi conducted several interviews, including with the BBC and CNN, which contributed to a greater awareness of alternative Palestinian forces.