EUPOL COPPS Newsletter - May 2020

Dear friends,

Even though the social distancing regime presents significant challenges for our work, we are nonetheless managing to continue supporting our Palestinian partners and even making progress in a number of important areas.

Indeed, despite the undoubtedly difficult situation that the Covid-19 pandemic has created, there are certainly also opportunities that the situation presents to put into place new practices and modernise law enforcement and rule of law institutions. As advisers of ours have pointed out recently, this is particularly true in the area of adopting new technologies, which can make organisations

more efficient, more effective and better able to respond to the needs of the communities they serve. We will certainly do everything in our power to support that process.

Last Saturday was Europe Day, which served as a valuable reminder of core EU values, including international cooperation, a commitment to the rule of law, human rights and peace. These are values that are integral to our work. Sadly, unlike in previous years, we have not been able to take part in the traditional Europe Day celebrations with Palestinian friends and interlocutors. But our commitment to our core values is the same as it's always been, and will remain so throughout this crisis and beyond.

Kind regards,

Kauko

Kauko Aaltomaa
Head of Mission
EUPOL COPPS

Ramadan Kareem - EUPOL COPPS European Tale

Every day, throughout the month of Ramadan, our colleagues in the Office of the EU Representative have released a story that highlights EU-Palestinian cooperation.

One of those videos was about our work at EUPOL COPPS in the context of the EU's support for policing, rule of law reform and human rights.

We hope you enjoy it!

Moving forward with the establishment of a witness protection system

"The process of investigating and prosecuting offenses, grave or not, depends largely on the information and testimony of witnesses. Witnesses are one of the cornerstones of successful national criminal justice systems," says EUPOL COPPS Prosecution Expert, Jari-Pekka Paajala. At the moment, a EUPOL COPPS team is

supporting the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) and the Palestinian Civil Police (PCP) with the establishment of a witness protection system for witnesses in corruption cases.

Find out more about the work currently going on below:

EUPOL COPPS supports witness protection system in Palestine

Interview: "By protecting witnesses, society protects its ability to dispense justice"

Meet our penitentiary advisers

Pictured here with Colonel Meqdad Suleiman at a event last year to mark Nelson Mandela day, Leen Swaegers (left) and Anna Dahlgren (right) are EUPOL COPPS' Penitentiary Advisers. They support the Correction and Rehabilitation Centre Department (CRCD) of the Palestinian Civil Police in the drafting and revision of strategies and they also deliver and organise training programmes for their Palestinian counterparts.

Penitentiary facilities are particularly vulnerable to the spread of infectious diseases. Find out more about their strategic work, as well as their comments on the ongoing pandemic:

☞ http://www.eupolcopps.eu/en/node/5670

"The Covid-19 pandemic also presents opportunities for the Palestinian justice system"

As part of EUPOL COPPS's support for our Palestinian counterparts during the COVID-19 crisis, our Justice Expert Andres Moreno recently coordinated and contributed to a report for the Palestinian justice system, gathering the advice of colleagues on how justice systems around the world are dealing with the crisis.

While the crisis is creating enormous challenges, it could also stimulate justice systems to modernise their procedures, in particular to adopt new technologies to make the justice system fairer and faster.

Find out more:

☞ http://www.eupolcopps.eu/en/node/5682