

EUPOL COPPS

Merry
Christmas
& HAPPY NEW YEAR

As a challenging year comes to a close,
we wish you and your family health, happiness and success
in 2021, and thank you for your cooperation.

From Nataliya Apostolova, Head of Mission,
and all the team at EUPOL COPPS.

EUPOL COPPS Newsletter - December 2020

Dear friends,

Since the beginning of December I have had the great pleasure of meeting key partners of the Mission in person, including Prime Minister Shtayyeh. We have become so used to interacting behind screens in the



past few months that it's easy to forget how important it is to meet face to face with your partners.

I am committed to supporting our Palestinian counterparts in a spirit of dialogue and mutual respect. My recent meetings with them were an excellent opportunity to take onboard their opinion, as well as the views of key international partners.

It was very encouraging to hear from our counterparts that EUPOL COPPS is a trusted and valued interlocutor. As we move into 2021, I am confident that this partnership can only strengthen.

On either side of New Year, we have Christmas – a week before for some and a week after for others. Whether one celebrates Christmas or not, the turn of the year is traditionally a time to reflect on the past year and make plans for the new one. 2020 has been a challenging year for all of us, and like everyone, I hope that 2021 will be better and smoother.

I regret that I still have not been able to visit Bethlehem, or most of the West Bank apart from Ramallah. Hopefully, as the Christmas video we recently published emphasises, the tourists that so many depend on in the West Bank will soon return. I hope I will soon also be able myself to see the many wonderful cultural and natural treasures that can be found here.

I wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and New Year, and first and foremost hope that you stay safe and healthy.

Kind regards,

Nataliya

Nataliya Apostolova
Head of Mission
EUPOL COPPS

A Bethlehem Christmas



Christmas and New Year this year are certainly different to any others we have seen in our lifetimes.

The Bethlehem Police continue to do their work, despite the challenges.

And we continue our work with our partners on policing and criminal justice reform.

So that hopefully next year, Christmas in Bethlehem will be better than ever.

#EUinAction



EUPOL COPPS is proud to be taking part in the #EUinAction campaign, which highlights the work being done by EU Common Security and Defence Policy Missions around the world.

Our video features Anna Dahlgren from Sweden. As a Penitentiary Adviser, she supports her Palestinian partners towards improving conditions in prisons and supporting rehabilitation.

"How a country treats its prisoners is often an indicator of how they treat and respect human rights," she says.

Fighting corruption and honouring the sacrifices of the pandemic era



“Corrupt practices undermine the many sacrifices being made to fight Covid-19. By depriving public institutions of necessary funding, corruption costs lives”.

**Nataliya Apostolova
Head of EUPOL COPPS**

At an international conference in Ramallah, organised with the support of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, the Head of EUPOL COPPS called for honouring sacrifices made during the pandemic with a reinvigorated fight against corruption.

“This challenging past year, perhaps more than ever in recent decades, has underlined in the starkest terms why the fight against corruption matters,” Ms Apostolova said via video link. “In the context of the ongoing pandemic, it seems even more unjust for corrupt practices to undermine the many sacrifices being made. It is no exaggeration to say that by depriving public institutions of necessary funding, corruption costs lives”.

<https://eupolcopps.eu/en/node/5785>

Supporting improved professional performance evaluations in the police



A training held in Jericho on 14-15 December helped provide new perspectives on professional performance evaluation for the Palestinian Civil Police.

“A well-done performance evaluation may lead to increased job satisfaction and motivation as well as better morale and teamwork,” said Pasi Aho, Head of the EUPOL COPPS Police Advisory Section

<https://eupolcopps.eu/en/node/5787>

Giving petty criminals a second chance



EUPOL COPPS supported efforts to give former criminals a second chance with a workshop in Ramallah for the Palestinian Ministry of Justice, .

“When people convicted of lesser crimes make a genuine attempt to change their lives, it is only right that the authorities recognise this effort and help them along the way,” said Amjad Badran, Legislative Drafting Adviser at EUPOL COPPS. “The most difficult situation is where convicted people are not aware that they should receive a rehabilitation decision, either from the competent judge or by the force of the law, before they receive a non-conviction certificate. We are happy to provide support for the Ministry of Justice, as they debate exactly what the right measures to help

rehabilitation might be”.

↶ <https://eupolcopps.eu/en/node/5781>



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