

THE ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION IN THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
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BY  
ERHAN AYAZ

SUPERVISOR: PROF.DR. JOUNI SUISTOLA

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EUROPEAN UNION RELATIONS

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Role of the European Union in the Middle East Peace Process  
Prepared by: Erhan Ayaz

**We certify that the thesis is satisfactory for the award of the Degree of Master of  
European Union Relations**

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#### Jury Report

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#### Thesis

<b>Title</b>	Role of the European Union in the Middle East Peace Process
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>The European Union as an organization has been involved in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict over the past 40 years. Sustainable solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has always been important priority on the foreign policy agenda of the European Union. The main aim of this thesis is to analyze the role of the European Union in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. However, effectiveness of the European Union in the Middle East peace process suffers from geographic instability in the region. By this way, this thesis tries to evaluate the European Union's efficiency and credibility both in political and social-economical cases. Since the 1970s, the Community started to show its desire to become an actor in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process because of the European Union's historical ties and proximity of the region. In the length of time, the EU has been becoming political actor in the Israel-Palestinian peace process. The role of the European Union changed from declaratory actor to politically active actor. However, these changes are not enough for the European Union's Mediterranean and Middle East strategy. The European Union's position is limited in the Middle East peace process because of its institutional weaknesses, lack of unity in the foreign and security policies of the</p>

	European Union. In this respect, this thesis tries to point out the changing perception of the European Union's political role in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.  <b>Keywords:</b> European Union, Israel, Palestine, Middle East, peace process, Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, European Neighbourhood Policy.
<b>Supervisor</b>	Prof. Dr. Jouni Suistola

### **Jury`s Decision**

**The Jury has decided to accept the student's thesis.**

**The decision has been take unanimously.**

**Jury Members**

**Date: 26.05.11**

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**Date: 26.05.11**

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## **ABSTRACT**

### **Role of the European Union in the Middle East Peace Process**

by

**Erhan Ayaz**

**Graduate School of Social Sciences**

**M.A, Department of European Union Relations**

**Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Jouni Suistola**

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The European Union as an organization has been involved in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict over the past 40 years. Sustainable solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has always been important priority on the foreign policy agenda of the European Union. The main aim of this thesis is to analyze the role of the European Union in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. However, effectiveness of the European Union in the Middle East peace process suffers from geographic instability in the region. By this way, this thesis tries to evaluate the European Union's efficiency and credibility both in political and social-economical cases. Since the 1970s, the Community started to show its desire to become an actor in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process because of the European Union's historical ties and proximity of the region. In the length of time, the EU has been becoming political actor in the Israel-Palestinian peace process. The role of the European Union changed from declaratory actor to politically active actor. However, these changes are not enough for the European Union's Mediterranean and Middle East strategy. The European Union's position is limited in the Middle East peace process because of its institutional weaknesses, lack of unity in the foreign and security policies of the European Union. In this respect, this thesis tries to point out the changing perception of the European Union's political role in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.

**Keywords:** European Union, Israel, Palestine, Middle East, peace process, Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, European Neighbourhood Policy.

## **DEDICATION**

.....to my family and my spouse with love and passion.

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## List of Abbreviations

BiH	Bosnia and Herzegovina
CFSP	Common Foreign and Security Policy
EC	European Communities
ECSC	European Coal and Steel Community
EDC	European Defence Community
EEC	European Economic Community
EIDHR	European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights
EMP	Euro-Mediterranean Partnership
EMU	Economic and Monetary Union
ENP	European Neighbourhood Policy
EPC	European Political Cooperation
ESDP	European Security and Defence Policy
EU	European Union
EU BAM RAFAH	The European Union Border Assistance Mission at the Rafah
EU POLL COPPS	EU Police Coordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support.
EURATOM	The European Atomic Energy Community
GATT	The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
HR	High Representative
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MEPP	Middle East Peace Process
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NTA	New Transatlantic Agenda
OEEC	The Organisation for European Economic Co-operation
OPEC	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PA	Palestinian Authority
PLO	Palestine Liberation Organization
REDWG	Regional Economic Development Working Group
SEA	Single European Act
UfM	Union for Mediterranean

UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNIFIL	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refuges in the Near East.
USA	United States of America
WEU	Western European Union
WW I	First World War
WW II	Second World War
VP	Vice President