

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

A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
OF  
NEAR EAST UNIVERSITY

BY  
ERHAN AYAZ

SUPERVISOR: PROF.DR. JOUNI SUISTOLA

IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR  
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS  
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF  
EUROPEAN UNION RELATIONS

NICOSIA, MAY 2011

**YAKIN DOĞU ÜNİVERSİTESİ  
SOSYAL BİLİMLER ENSTİTÜSÜ**

**Avrupa Birliği İlişkileri Anabilim Dalı Yüksek Lisans Programı  
Yüksek Lisans Tezi**

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**

**Examining Committee in Charge**

Assoc. Prof.Dr. Hüseyin Özdeşer

Chairman of the Committee,  
Chairman, Department of  
European Union Relations  
Near East University

Prof.Dr. Jouni Suistola

Department of International Relations,  
Vice-Rector, Near East University

Dr. İlksoy Aslım

Department of International Relations,  
Near East University

**Approval of the Graduate School of Social Sciences  
Prof. Dr. Aykut Polatoğlu  
Director**

**Near East University**  
**Faculty of Economic and Administrative Sciences**  
**Department of European Union Relations**  
**Jury Report**  
**Academic Year: 2010-2011**

**Student information**

<b>Full name:</b>	Erhan Ayaz	<b>Nationality:</b>	Turkey
<b>Institution:</b>	Near East University	<b>Department:</b>	European Union Relations

**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**

**Number attending: 3**

**Signatures**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hüseyin Özdeşer

Prof. Dr. Jouni Suistola

Dr. İlksoy Aslım

### **Approvals**

**Date: 26.05.11**

**Chairman of European Union Relations**

**Department**

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hüseyin Özdeşer

## **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**

**MAY 2011, 112 Pages**

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.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

It is my pleasure to express my gratitude to those who made this thesis possible with their contributions, to my supervisor Prof. Dr. Jouni Suistola for his guidance, advice, insight and facility towards the preparation of this thesis.

I am also very grateful to my examining committee members Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hüseyin Özdeşer and Dr. İlksoy Aslım.

Lastly, I would like to express my most sincere gratitude to all members of my family.





### 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 Refugees 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