

Country: Estonia

Committee: DISEC

Topics: Israel-Palestine Conflict

Delegate's Name: Emre Ercan

Estonia, or the Republic of Estonia as it is known, is a Baltic country in Northern Europe. It is bordered on the west and north by the Gulf of Finland, on the east by Russia, and on the south by the Republic of Latvia. Tallinn is the capital of Estonia. Estonia is the European Union's least powerful country, with a population of 1,328,976 people living on the mainland and 2,222 islands in the Baltic Sea. Blue represents prior freedom, black represents lost freedom, and white represents independence and a bright future on the Estonian flag.

Estonia's currency is the Euro. Estonia employs roughly 600,000 people, but there is a skilled labor shortage, which affects all European countries. As a result, the Estonian government has boosted spending. Its quota for non-EU workers from other countries. During the 2000s economic crisis, Estonia's unemployment rate increased to 18.8% before stabilizing at 13.8 percent until the summer of 2011. The unemployment rate fell after the economic downturn, hovering around 6% in 2015 and 2016. Until 2006, the Estonian economy was one of the world's fastest growing, with an annual growth rate of more than 10%. Despite various issues at home and abroad, the Estonian economy has a framework that is resilient to crises and capable of repaying its debts.

Estonia supports the need of continuous dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian authorities and encourages them to pursue more practical collaboration that benefits both peoples.

Estonia also backs international and regional initiatives in Gaza to rebuild the area and improve the humanitarian situation. We applaud Israel's recent measures to ease Gaza's limitations and ask for broader movement of products and people into and out of Gaza, while keeping Israel's security concerns in mind.

We are concerned by the continuous occurrences of violence in the West Bank, particularly clashes between Palestinians and Israeli security personnel. We vehemently condemn terror assaults and violence against civilians, especially the November 21 terror attack in Jerusalem's Old City. We reiterate our request for all parties to desist from using violence, instigation, or provocation in any way.

Estonia is also worried about Israel's continued settlement expansion, demolitions, and evictions, which are illegal under international law. We urge Israel to stop these activities, including advancing tenders and plans to build tens of thousands of new housing units in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Finally, Estonia reaffirms its commitment to supporting all efforts to create favorable conditions for the resumption of direct meaningful negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians on all final status issues. In this context, we warmly welcome the Middle East Quartet Envoys' meeting on November 18 and express our support for their ongoing consultations with the parties and key regional actors.