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D/08/148  
Lien A/07/4416

Dear Dr Lucas,

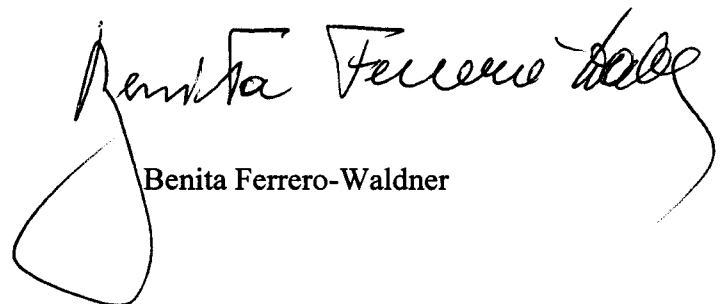
Thank you for your letter of 18<sup>th</sup> December concerning the order to demolish a school building in the community of Fasayil, near the Jordan Valley.

I share your concerns over the possible demolition of the primary school. I am aware of the fact that the Israeli authorities do not issue construction permits in the "area C" of the West Bank and that new buildings without authorisation are demolished on some occasions.

After I received your letter, my services in Israel did some research on the issue. On 29<sup>th</sup> November there was a legal hearing in Beit El in where the village of Fasayil was represented by a lawyer provided by the Palestinian Authority. The verdict was to postpone the demolition of the school and allow children to continue to attend classes. The European Commission's Delegation in Tel-Aviv will continue to monitor the situation closely.

The education of the Palestinians is an issue of high importance for the European Commission. We will continue our efforts to ensure access of Palestinians to primary and secondary education both in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip.

Yours sincerely,

  
Benita Ferrero-Waldner

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