

SAINT-JOSSE
SINT-JOOST

Report on mission

to

Palestine

- 1st to 4th May 2017 -

*“The world is too small for walls” –
graffiti on Bethlehem’s “Apartheid wall”*



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Firstly, I would like to thank the members of the Municipal Committee for their unanimous support for this wonderful and generous initiative.

Secondly, I would like to give my heartiest thanks to Hassan Albalawi, a councillor with the Palestine mission, tasked with bilateral relations with Belgium and Luxembourg, who acted as a facilitator in setting up this partnership and without whom it would probably have taken much longer to get this project off the ground.

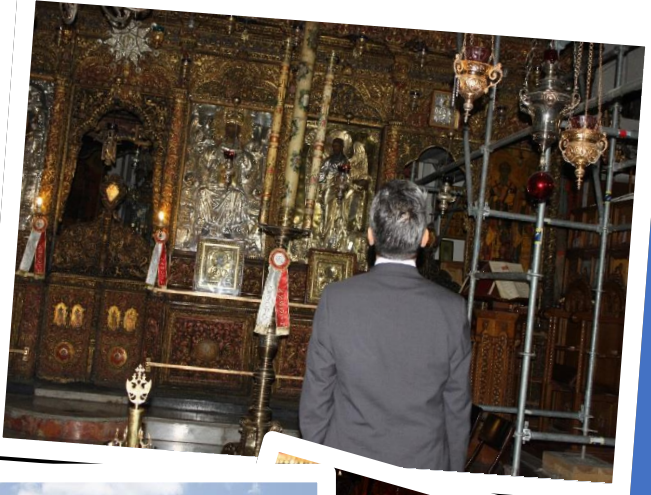
I would also like to thank Mr. Adnan Hussein, the governor of the Governorate of East Jerusalem and Business Minister for East Jerusalem for being present and the time he gave us despite his great responsibilities and for having shared his knowledge regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with us.

I would also like to thank Mr. Mohamad Halasah, the Director of International Relations in the East Jerusalem Governorate, who was the first person we met on our arrival in Palestine and who took charge of organising the programme for our mission.

Many thanks also to the Mayor of the Municipality of Al-Azhariyah, Mousa El Shaer for having accompanied us throughout this mission and for the information he gave us in reply to our many questions.

Finally, I would like to thank the officials of the Town Hall of the Municipality of Al-Azhariyah, the NGOs and the Palestinian people in general for their warm and dignified welcome despite their troubled daily life.

Eric JASSIN,
alderman for International Relations and Cooperation



Introduction – Context of the mission

As part of its International Solidarity policy, the Municipality of Saint-Josse-ten-Noode has for some years been concluding international cooperation and twinning partnerships.

The first links we formed were with two local organisations (the Aïn Beni Mathar urban municipality and the Bni Mathar rural municipality) situated in the Eastern Region – City of Oujda in Morocco. Those links were established through the municipality's International Cooperation Programme. This partnership was extended to include the Jerada Province. Subsequently, we were twinned with the Turkish city of Eskisehir and then with the city of Tangiers in Morocco.

The municipality of Saint-Josse-ten-Noode then extended its cooperation as far as South-East Asia. We signed a partnership agreement with the City of Binalonan in the Philippines in June 2015, drawing on a subsidy from the Flemish government.

On 26 May 2015, the Municipal Council formalised the membership of Saint-Josse-ten-Noode in the Network of Belgian Local Authorities for Palestine. We have taken over the network's vice-presidency. This is a network uniting Walloon and Brussels-based local administrations (with the ultimate aim of including the Flemish administrations) that wish to contribute to implementing a "militant" solidarity with Palestine.

These various experiences gave the Board the motivation to create a partnership with a city within the East Jerusalem Governorate. In order to do so, it sought aid for the Representation of Palestine from the European Union and the Belgian and Luxembourg states. This led to the Municipality being invited to go to East Jerusalem on an exploratory mission.

The Jerusalem Governorate subsequently informed us that the municipal authority of Al-Azhariyah (or El Eizariya or Al Ayzariyah) wished to form a partnership with a Belgian local authority.

In May 2017, a delegation from Saint-Josse-ten-Noode conducted a mission to the Municipality of Al-Azhariyah, situated within the East Jerusalem Governorate. That mission had a double objective: firstly sending a delegation to explore the proposed entity and learn on-site about the characteristics of the territory in question and, secondly, signing a collaboration agreement with the Municipality of Al-Azhariyah. Between the time of the mission and the drafting of this report, the municipal elections took place in Palestine and in principle a new mayor has been elected.

The results and observations of the mission to Palestine are set out in this report. The first section gives a general overview of Al-Azhariyah and the second describes the stages of the mission.

This action did not involve indirectly taking part in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict but chiefly entails a strong symbolic value in terms of solidarity and social action.

By means of this new partnership, which takes a long-term perspective, the Municipality of Saint-Josse-ten-Noode will take actions to encourage solidarity with the Palestinian people. The North/South Consultation Committee, which has a close link with decentralised international cooperation actions and which has already implemented numerous actions in this area will be associated with the partnership.

A second mission will be planned in the coming months in order to allow us to learn more, to form links with the Palestinian people and to envisage joint future actions.

Mission to Palestine

Aims of the mission

Our mission aims at achieving 3 fundamental objectives:

- Meeting local authorities and getting to know our future partners;
- Proposing bases for a decentralised cooperation agreement with the Municipality of Al-Azhariyah;
- Exploring the possibilities for a joint collaboration based essentially on social action and solidarity;

This partnership is based on the principles of decentralised international cooperation. This mission was financed from our own funds and part of the budget allocated to International Relations will be used for strengthening and developing the partnership with Palestine. However, the department of International Relations and Cooperation will be attentive to all calls for projects relating to Palestine in order to strengthen its capacity for action.

Mission participants:



Eric JASSIN,
Alderman for International Relations and Cooperation



Rukiye Kavak
Mr. Eric Jassin's collaborator

The Lord Mayor, Emir Kir, with a collaborator in his cabinet and a journalist, also taking part in the delegation. For administrative reasons, they were not able to take part in the mission.

On site, we were accompanied by



Adnan Hosseini
Governor of the East Jerusalem Governorate and Business Minister for East Jerusalem



Mousa Al Shaer
Mayor of the Municipality of Al-Azhariyah



Mohamad Halasah
Director of International Relations with the Governorate of East Jerusalem.



Amani Abu Zayyad
In charge of International Relations for the Municipality of Al-Azhariyah.

PART 1:

BRIEF IINTRODUCTON TO THE
MUNICIPALITY OF AL-AZHARIYAH

1.1. Location



Al-Azhariyah or (*Al-Eizariya* or *Al-Azariya*), literally *Place of Lazarus*, sometimes referred to by its medieval name of *Bethany*, is a municipality in Zone C of the “West Bank” in Palestine. The “West Bank”, or “Cisjordanie” as it is known in French is the territory extending over 5,860 km² situated in the Middle east, to the west of Jordan and the north west of the Dead Sea.

The West Bank includes the cities of East Jerusalem, Jericho, Naplouse, Hebron, Jenine and Tulkarem as well as Israeli colonies such as Ariel, Ma’aleh Adumim, Betar Illit and Gosh Etzion and also numerous holy sites of the three monotheistic religions.

The name of Al-Azhariyah refers to the New Testament where Jesus raises Lazarus of Bethany from the dead. Thus, the tomb of Lazarus, a holy site for Catholics, is situated in the Municipality of Al-Azhariyah.

Al-Azhariyah is located on the Palestinian side of the wall of shame erected by Israel in 2003 in order to protect it from any armed invasions. Nevertheless, it is still under Israel’s civil and military control, being situated in so-called Zone C, which covers 62% of the West Bank.



1.2. Description of Al-Azhariyah

- ❖ **Area:** the natural area represents 11,179 dunums. The developed area extends over 3,600 dunums.

A *dunum* is a unit describing area that was used by the Ottomans. It is still used in certain countries in the Middle East. 1 dunum is equivalent to 1,000 m².

- ❖ **Population:** 30,000 inhabitants

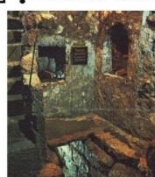
- ❖ **Infrastructures :**

- 16 schools: 8 public and 8 private
- 1 university: Al-Quds University
- Clinics and pharmacies but no hospitals
- 20 centres and associations
- Sports clubs and youth clubs
- Officer of the Jerusalem Governorate
- 7 banks
- 2 factories
- Football stadium – planned

- ❖ **Tourism:** 300,000 tourists per year

- Historical religious significance Al-Azhariyah has 11 mosques and 10 churches
- Archaeological sites: Lazarus' tomb

3 . Orthodox Monastery 2 . Lazarus Tomb



1 . AlZozair Mosque



4 . House



9 . Latin Church



5 . Qanater



8 . Houses



6 . Pathway



7 . Destroyed houses



1.3. Municipality of Al-Azhariyah

❖ **Mayor:** Mousa Al Shaer



❖ **Local council:** 1 deputy mayor and 13 councillors

❖ **Number of employees:** 67

❖ **Departments:**

- Administration
- Engineering
- Health
- Environment
- Finance
- Collection

❖ **Services provided by the Municipality:**

- Town planning
- Water supply
- Urban planning (architectural regulations)
- Crafts and industry
- Development of infrastructures
- Protection of health and environment



1.4. Challenges

As is the case throughout the entire territory of Palestine, under the Israeli occupation Al-Azhariyah suffers such indignities as, for example, the building of the partition wall, the confiscation of land and the building of Israeli colonies on their territory. Each day is a new challenge for the Palestinian population.

❖ The “Apartheid Wall”

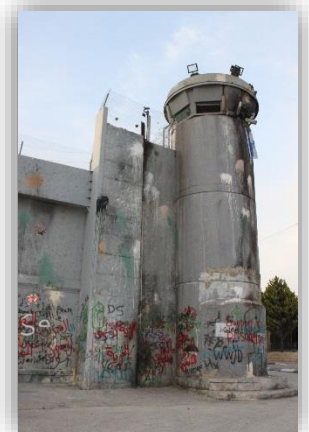


View on a small piece of the “Apartheid Wall” in Bethlehem

❖ **The colonies**: a significant share of Palestinian territory has been colonised by the Israelis, who make it inaccessible to Palestinians. Under the terms of the Oslo Accords (1993), Palestine was divided into 3 zones:

- ZONE A, over which the Palestinian authority exercises civil jurisdiction, including police powers.
- ZONE B in which the Palestinian authority exercises civil powers, with internal security being exercised jointly with the Israeli army.
- ZONE C including the Israeli colonies remaining under the control of the Israeli State.

Zones A and B represent around 20% each of the territories as opposed to Zone C, which covers 60%.



❖ **The confiscated territories**: the confiscation of land, the presence of numerous colonies of all sizes connected by a road network reserved exclusively to the settlers and to Palestinians with a pass have transformed Palestine into dispersed territories so that Palestinians are prevented from moving around normally.

- ❖ **The checkpoints**: whenever checkpoints are mentioned, this means that there's an army presence. There are hundreds of checkpoints, which are guarded by young soldiers who often humiliate the Palestinian population.
- ❖ **Water and electricity**: electricity is totally under the control of the Israelis. Water is also confiscated. Israel appropriates 85% of the groundwater under the soil surface in the West Bank and sells it to Palestinians at a price 3 times higher than that paid by Israelis.

1.5. Projects and partnerships

Most of the Municipality's work is paid for by its own funds but donations from individuals, the local government ministry and other countries are also important sources of financing.

Since 2006, Al-Azhariyah has benefited from financial aid from the Belgian cooperation scheme. This has allowed it to implement several development projects. In particular, the repair and extension of roads, the development of a park, equipment of a school with an electrical room, constructing a cafeteria, etc.

Since 20 March 2012, Al-Azhariyah has had a partnership with Nanterre in France. The two cities signed a decentralised cooperation agreement, which consolidated links that had been in place since 2007 in the areas of youth, urban planning and economic development.

PART II:

STAGES OF THE MISSION

2.1. Day 1: Monday 1st May 2017

We arrived at the Ben Gurion airport in Tel-Aviv at 3 p.m. where a vehicle sent by the Municipality of Al-Azhariyah was waiting for us. We should mention that as soon as we got off the plane we were already stressed at the thought of having to undergo an in-depth interrogation for hours or even being sent back to the airport, especially having heard reports from people who had already had such experiences. We were quickly reassured once we got through passport control, which did not take very long and included just a few routine questions such as “Where are you going?”, “What have you come to do in Palestine and how many days are you staying” and “Who are you going to meet?”

On our journey from the airport towards Bethlehem, we were struck by the glaring differences in environmental terms between Israel and Palestine. The Israeli territory was characterised by the richness of its green spaces and its fairly developed urban landscape, while the Palestinian territory was devoid of any greenery. Both the landscape and land use seemed very under-developed.

After an hour’s drive, we arrived at the Jacir Palace Hotel, in Bethlehem. Built in 1910 by a merchant called Suleiman Jacir, who wanted to live there with his 5 brothers and their respective families, the building is based on typically Palestinian architecture and Arab households. In the 1950s, the house became a private school, then a public school for boys and finally was transformed into a girls’ school. In 2000, it was converted into a hotel.

After we settled in at the hotel, we had to wait to meet Mohamad Halasah, the Director of International Relations at the Jerusalem Governorate for dinner. During that time, we had a walk around the hotel’s neighbouring streets in Bethlehem. After walking for a quarter of an hour we were attracted by an enormous concrete block wall, around 8 metres high with a guard’s tower, which raised lots of questions for us:

“Was this a refugee camp?”, “Was it a wall of an Israeli settlement?”, “Was it a prison?”,

“There was a sound from behind. Were there people living behind it?”, “There were surveillance cameras, so wasn’t it most likely a visitors’ centre”...

We plodded for a few metres along this interminable wall, which had become a locus for expression. It was covered with graffiti and messages. Overcome by feelings of incomprehension, uncertainty, uneasiness and sadness at the same time, we stopped and took a long look at it.

Afterwards, Mr. Halasah told us that this was the Wall of Shame (West Bank Separation Wall) built by Israel to separate the West Bank running along Jerusalem. The construction of the wall began in 2002 and once it is finished, it will be 730 km long. 61% of the wall has been completed, with 39% remaining. The meaning attributed to this wall differs for Israelis and Palestinians. Israelis consider it a separation wall, an anti-terrorist barrier or a security partition. For the Palestinians, it is the “Apartheid wall”, a segregation wall or the “Wall of Shame”.

This wall prevents inhabitants of Bethlehem from getting to their workplace in Al-Azhariyah or, more generally, it prevents Palestinians from accessing health and education services provided by Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem, on the other side of the wall. Palestinians who do not have a pass have to drive around the wall, so that their journey is 2 to 3 times longer.

The first day ended with a discussion with Mohamed Halasah over a meal in a typical restaurant situated on a road parallel to the hotel.

Mr. Halasah told us that a few days before we got to Palestine, the Palestinian prisoners had gone on hunger strike. He told us how worried he was about this unacceptable situation. Faced with repression and a failure to respect the international rules on the minimum incarceration conditions, those detained were calling for respect for their basic needs recognised as human rights, such as, for example, the family visits they were being denied.

After our mission and the drafting of this report, the hunger strike ended after 40 days and led to a dialogue and negotiations in favour of the prisoners.

2.1. Day 2: Tuesday 2 May 2017

Programme: - Visit to the Al-Aqsa mosque

- Meeting with the Governor of East Jerusalem, the Mayor of Al-Azhariyah and the councillors
- Signing of the collaboration agreement
- Visit to the “Siniora Food Industries Company”
- Visit to the old town and Lazarus’ tomb
- Visit to the “Al Hamawi” centre - Visit to the orphanage “Zahra Home”.

Visit to Temple Mount



The next morning, we began a very full day of visits and meetings. The driver took us to Al’Aqsa mosque where 2 employees of the Jerusalem Governorate were waiting for us.



We were taken on a guided visit of the Temple Mount, a holy site for 2 religions, Islam and Judaism.

The Al-Aqsa Mosque, situated on the Temple Mount (area:

150 000 m²) in the old town of Jerusalem, is the city’s biggest mosque. It is situated in the eastern, Palestinian sector, which was occupied by Israel in 1967. A Jordanian foundation, the *Waqf*¹, administers and runs the Temple Mount and the Al-Aqsa Mosque: however, Israel is in charge of entries and access to the monument as the counterpart to an agreement signed to that effect between Israel and Jordan in October 2015. In this, they agreed to new measures governing the Temple Mount in order to attempt to end the escalation of violence between Israelis and Palestinians on this holy site.

¹Waqf means donating something you own definitively and inalienably, i.e. “fixing” it, in order to dedicate the revenue from it to a cause chosen by the donor. In other words, where someone assigns his property in the form of Waqf, he loses ownership and cannot take it back or assign it. Thus, the ownership of the asset is fixed forever and inalienably. This practice, which was not mentioned as such in the Koran, was recommended by the prophet Mohammad himself and spread through the early years of Islam, favouring in particular the rise of the sciences and the improvement of the lot of the most impoverished.



It was built in the 7th century and, along with the Dome of the Rock, it forms part of a complex of religious buildings on the Temple Mount. It is the second holiest site for Muslims, after

Mecca (and Medina). The Mosque can welcome 5,000 worshippers and the overall complex can receive several hundred thousands of visitors. According to Muslim tradition, the mosque was built on the holy place where the prophet Mohammad rose up to heaven with his mare Al-Bouraq during the nocturnal voyage.

This site is also referred to by Jews as Har HaBayit – Temple Mount – and is the holiest site in Judaism.



Not far from the Dome of the Rock, there is also the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which we visited afterwards. According to Christian tradition, that is where Christ's tomb is located. At the entrance, there is a large slab where Jesus' body was prepared before his burial. Every day, there are hundreds of pilgrims from all over the world queuing to worship at this place. Thanks to our guide's help, we were able to go into the marble shrine containing the tomb.



Ceremony of signing the agreement

We then went to the Municipality of Al-Azhariyah where, in the Council Room, we were received by several persons, in particular the Governor Adnan Husseini, the mayor Mousa Al Shaer, the municipal councillors, the officials and the local press. The Director of International Relations in the Jerusalem Governorate introduced the meeting with a speech indicating the framework within which we found ourselves there.

Then, the Governor spoke. He greeted and welcomed us before addressing the subject that is close to their hearts at this particular time, the hunger strike begun by thousands of Palestinian prisoners incarcerated in prisons in Israel. This is a very worrying situation for the entire Palestinian population, particularly in light of their failing state of health.

He went on to explain the reality of the borders between East Jerusalem and Al-Azhariyah. He then emphasised the importance of tourism to Al-Azhariyah.

The Governor continued his speech by saying, *“The Palestinian State is in difficulty. A difficulty created by the occupation, the like of which does not exist anywhere else in the world. We talk about peace but it’s nowhere to be seen! As Palestinians we have no choice - we have to accept the situation.”*

He ended by emphasising the importance of our presence, of the presence of Belgium, an EU country, as this type of partnership has fundamental importance for their connection to the outside world.



The alderman, Mr. Eric Jassin then spoke in the following terms:

« *Mr. Governor and Minister, Adnan Housseini,
Mr. Mayor, Mosa Al Shaer,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Firstly, I would like to apologise for the absence of the Federal deputy and Mayor of the Municipality of Saint-Josse-ten-Noode, Mr. Emir KIR, who unfortunately could not be present today.

I would also like to express my joy at being here with you, for various reasons.

The first is that the Municipality of Saint-Josse-ten-Noode has for some years been pursuing a very extensive international cooperation policy. In fact, after the Municipality of Beni Mathar, Ain Bni Mathar, the Jerada Province and the city and Tangiers in Morocco, we've had the Municipality of Eskisehir in Turkey and the Municipality of Binalonan in the Philippines. And now, here we are in Palestine signing a cooperation agreement with the Municipality of Al-Azhariyah.

The second reason is that in 2015, our Municipality decided to join the Network of Belgian Authorities for Palestine. And very quickly we became vice president.

For us, solidarity with Palestine and its population is a given. We live in the heart of Europe and for us it's a way of bypassing any discourse based on circumstance in order to demonstrate that the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people, such as its right to self-determination, must be respected.

The third reason is that the Municipality of Saint-Josse wishes to establish a real partnership between our two populations through this cooperation agreement.

That is why we will be establishing a programme in association with civil society on both sides of the Mediterranean.

I would like to conclude by emphasising our desire to make every possible effort at our level to ensure that our partnership is exemplary and that tomorrow our projects will give Palestine and the Palestinian population the possibility of emerging from the difficult situation in which certain parties have placed it.

Many thanks for your hospitality.

Long live Belgium! Long live Palestine!”

The session continued with a power point presentation on the characteristics of the Municipality of Al-Azhariyah given by Amani Abu Zayyad, an official tasked with the local authority's International Relations. Amani Abu Zayyed particularly impressed us by his enthusiasm, his dynamism and his strong desire to invest in the Municipality and the Palestinian people.

By way of a conclusion, the signing of the cooperation agreement (see Appendix) took place and presents were exchanged.

Several journalists from the local press attended the ceremony and by the following day a local newspaper had already dedicated an article to this event.

بلدية العيزرية توقع اتفاقية مع بلدية سانت جوس البلجيكية



والعمل للتمسك بها، موضحاً أهمية المشاريع التي سيجري تنفيذها من حيث تحسين أوضاع الفلسطينيين.

بدوره، أشار رئيس مجلس بلدية العيزرية موسى الشاعر بالدور لهم وللشريعة للنفذة في بلدة العيزرية من قبل بلجيكا والتعاون البلجيكي والتي تصب في خدمة البنية التحتية والشباب والتعليم والصحة. وشكر محافظ القدس على اهتمامه بتعزيز دور ومكانة الهيئات المحلية من خلال إيجاد مثل هذه الشراكات والاتفاقيات التي تعود بالفائدة على مجمل المواطنين ومؤسسات البلدة، وشكر كذلك بلدية سانت جوس موقفها الداعم لتوقيع مذكرة التفاهم مع بلدية العيزرية، مؤكداً حرص بلدية العيزرية على النجاح هذه الاتفاقية والعمل على تطويرها.

بدوره، أشار رئيس مجلس بلدي سانت جوس إلى أهمية هذه الاتفاقية وروابط الصداقة والعلاقات المميزة التي تجمع بين فلسطين وبلجيكا والرغبة المشتركة لتعزيز التعاون القائم على روابط الصداقة والتضامن وتعزيز أوجه التبادل في مجال التعليم والتدريب المهني ودعم إنشاء المشروعات والصحة والعمل الاجتماعي والثقافة والدعم المؤسساتي من خلال مشاريع تستهدف في المقام الأول الشباب والنساء، منوهاً إلى أن هذه الشراكة ستتحقق فعلياً من خلال تنظيم أوجه تبادل للمعلومات والخبرات فضلاً عن تنفيذ مشاريع مشتركة بين الطرفين.

وأكد على أهمية هذه الاتفاقية خاصة أنها تأتي في ظل التفهم البلجيكي للواقع الفلسطيني وللساعي الفلسطينية الهادفة إلى إقامة الدولة الفلسطينية بالإضافة إلى الحاجة لاسمعة للبلدية للقدسة وصمود سكانها.

ويشار هنا إلى أن هذه هي أول مرة تلتقي فيها إحدى البلديات البلجيكية من العاصمة بروكسل بالإقليم بلديّة تتبع محافظة القدس، الأمر الذي ينطوي على دلالة سياسية، حيث سبق سانت جوس أن نظمت فعاليات ثقافيتين هامتين بالتعاون مع بعثة فلسطين، كما أن فلسطين ستكون ضيف الشرف في فعالية ثقافية هامة مدينة سانت جوس في شهر أكتوبر القادم.

ويذكر أن بلدية سانت جوس هي أصغر بلدية في بروكسل وتمتد على مساحة كيلو متر مربع واحد، ويقطنها قرابة 17 ألف نسمة ينتمون إلى 128 دولة، وهي بذلك الأكثر تنوعاً في بلجيكا. كما تضم البلدية عدداً مهماً من المؤسسات الرسمية للدولة البلجيكية، منها عدد من الحكومات والبرلمانات الإقليمية، بالإضافة إلى عدد من المسارح والمراكز الثقافية والمتاحف، وفيها أهم مركز تجاري في بروكسل ونصف المؤسسات الفندقية في العاصمة.

وقد انضمت بلدية سانت جوس إلى شبكة السلطات المحلية لصالح فلسطين، والتي تم الإعلان عن تأسيسها رسمياً في 29 نوفمبر الماضي، في بروكسل، بالتنسيق مع بعثة فلسطين، وهذه الشبكة تضم 5 مدن بلجيكية تربطها علاقات تعاون من مدن فلسطينية.

القدس - زكي أبو الحلاوة- وقعت بلدية العيزرية اسم، اتفاقية تعاون مع بلدية سانت جوس البلجيكية تهدف إلى توطيد أواصر الصداقة بين البلدين وتعزيز أوجه التبادل في مجال التعليم والتدريب المهني ودعم إنشاء المشروعات والصحة والعمل الاجتماعي والثقافة والدعم المؤسساتي من خلال مشاريع تستهدف في المقام الأول الشباب والنساء.

ووقع الاتفاقية عن بلدية العيزرية رئيسها موسى الشاعر فيما وقعها عن بلدية سانت جوس البلجيكية نائب الرئيس إيريك جاسان وذلك بحضور ورعاية محافظ القدس المهندس عدنان الحسيني.

وكان وفد من بلدية سانت جوس، إحدى البلديات البلجيكية للكونة للعاصمة البلجيكية بروكسل، بدأ زيارة عمل رسمية لحفاظة القدس، ورأس الوفد إيريك جاسان نائب رئيس البلدية، ومسؤول العلاقات الدولية في مجلس سانت جوس، حيث نظمت محافظة القدس بالتعاون مع بلدية العيزرية برنامجاً مكثفاً، شمل الاجتماع بمحافظ القدس الوزير عدنان الحسيني، ومدير مديرية الحكم المحلي، ماهر جابر ورئيس بلدية العيزرية موسى الشاعر، وعدداً من المنظمات الوطنية والاجتماعية، كما شمل البرنامج زيارات لعدد من المؤسسات المحلية والأندية والجمعيات في بلدة العيزرية وفي مدينة القدس.

واستهل الحسيني مراسم التوقيع باستعراض عام للأوضاع الفلسطينية على وجه العموم وللقدسية على وجه الخصوص خاصة في ظل انسداد افق المفاوضات مع الجانب الإسرائيلي الذي يسعى جاهداً إلى إتهام المزيد من الأراضي الفلسطينية وتحديداً في مدينة القدس.

ونوه الحسيني إلى أن هذه الزيارة تأتي في ظل إضراب الحركة الأسيرة الذي يدخل يومه السابع عشر بمرزبد من التحدي والصمود والوقوف والالتفاف الشعبي والرسمي خلف مطالب الأسرى العادلة.

وأكد الحسيني أهمية توحيد الصفوف وتوجيه الأنظار نحو المدينة المقدسة التي تعاني أكثر من غيرها من الهزات الإسرائيلية في استهداف واضح بالوضع الفلسطيني والعربي وحتى الدولي، منوهاً إلى أن خيار السلام اشتراكي بالنسبة للقيادة، ولكن السلام العادل القائم على أساس الشرعية والقوانين الدولية التي كفلت حق الدولتين نصيبان جنياً إلى جنب سلام وأمان، مع التأكيد أن هذا السلام لا يمكن أن يقوم مع الاستيطان ومصادرة الأرض وحقوق الآخرين.

وأثنى الحسيني على الدور البلجيكي في دعم ومساندة الحقوق الفلسطينية، منوهاً إلى أهمية مثل هذه الاتفاقية وللشراكة للشركة التي قد تنتج عنها بالتوافق بين الجانبين بهدف دعم صمود المواطنين وإعادة الحياة إلى المدينة المقدسة وبلدياتها وقراها، مؤكداً أن المستقبل سيكون مشرقاً للفلسطينيين وسيحصلون على حقوقهم إن أجلا أم عاجلاً، فإن التاريخ علمنا أن الظلم ودولته إلى زوال.

واعتبر المحافظ أن هذه الاتفاقية هامة لأنها تخلق تعاون بين بلديتين في العاصمتين البلجيكية والفلسطينية، مشيراً إلى البعد الزمني

Visit to the old town of Al-Azhariyah



After the official ceremony, we went on a small walk, accompanied by the Governor and the elected representatives on foot through the old town of Al-Azhariyah, where our first visit was to the St Lazarus Roman Catholic Church. A church was built in 1952 close to the tomb of Lazarus, on property that had been owned by the Order of Franciscan Monks since 1863. You can see the remains of mosaics from former oriental, byzantine and cross-shaped churches.

The church's facade features a mosaic representing Mary, Martha and Lazarus. The interior is decorated with

polished stone and mosaics.

Around twenty-five metres away, a hill to the north-west of the church is the modern entrance to Lazarus' tomb. Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha of Bethany, was a friend of Jesus. They lived in Bethany, which is now called Al-Azhariyah, meaning "Place of Lazarus". He is the one whom Christ was said to have resuscitated, getting him to rise up from his tomb, according to the Gospel of Saint John.



Extract from the Gospel of Saint John (Chap. 11, verses 39 to 44).

Jesus said: **"Take away the stone"**. Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him: **"Lord, by this time there will be an odour, for he has been dead four days"**.

Jesus said to her: **"Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"**. So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: **"Father, I thank you that you have heard me"**.

I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice: **"Lazarus, come out!"**. The man who had died came out... Lazarus' tomb became a place of pilgrimage and welcomes an average of 300,000 tourists per year.

Visit to the “Siniora Food Industries Company”



We proceeded with the programme for the day, moving on to our visit of the “Siniora Food Industries Company”. The company produces and sells poultry-based products in Palestine, Jordan and Dubai. It offers tinned products and cured meats. It was founded in 1920 and is based in Amman, Jordan.

The Siniora projects director, Khaled Naser, showed us around the factory and we noted that the most recent technology is used in accordance with the highest quality standards. For example, there was no question of taking in a handbag. And we had to be covered from head to toe.

Siniora now owns the most advanced factory in the area of cured poultry in relation to many international factories. It exports around 20% of its production to Arab countries and Cameroon.

However, it has to deal with import-export obstacles. Production is interrupted due to the local produce being insufficient. The State of Israel controls all imports and prohibits the importation of equipment and raw materials (such as chicken or turkey) needed for production. The company is also trying to find solutions to its problem of energy dependence, also controlled by the Israelis. It is trying to deal with this dependence and find ways to avoid having its production interrupted. A pilot solar energy project is currently underway in Jordan and could be implemented on the site in Palestine if the results are positive.



Visit to the Al-Hamani Center

Next, we arrived at the Al Hamani Centre (in Arabic, “the protected place”), where we were welcomed by Bertrand Martin, the Director of the Centre.

It is thanks to an initiative of the European Cooperation and Development Institute (ECDI) that an education centre saw the light of day in Al-Azhariyah. The ECDI is an organisation for international solidarity which implements development projects in around fifteen countries in the areas of education, professional training, entrepreneurship and health.



Since 2014, young people in Al-Azhariyah are welcomed in a renovated building where a French organisation, in partnership with the Minister for Education and the Municipality of Al-Azhariyah, try to re-establish social connections.

Previously, the Al-Hamawi house was abandoned and occupied by squatters who were drug users. This is a good example of the reconversion of an unoccupied building, as nowadays the dealers are gone and the place is full of adolescents. The Centre offers different types of educational activities (dance, gardening, multi-sports, remedial classes) essentially addressing young people between 10 and 18 years of age and providing them with 15 activity leaders and 4 teachers (English, mathematics, physics and Arabic).

We also visited the “Al Bayyara” park alongside the Centre, which was redeveloped last spring in order to welcome families, providing them with a place to meet and escape their daily problems.



Visit to Zahra Home – Islamic Orphanage School

The last visit of the day was to the “Zahra Home” orphanage, where we were met by almost all of the women who work in the orphanage on a voluntary basis.



The project of building the orphanage began in 1986 but was very quickly blocked by the Israeli authorities. The orphanage was initially based in a disused school up to 2008, when it was finally possible to implement the project thanks to a donation of land in Al-Azhariyah from the Jerusalem Waqf.

The orphanage is managed by an association of voluntary members made up of women from civil society who have a common vision: taking care of orphan girls (children without parents or whose parents have separated). For these women, an orphanage is not merely a house providing children with the basics but a warm and welcoming place in which they receive appropriate education and professional guidance in a setting that presents the characteristics of a family home.

These volunteers also recognise the importance of schooling and general culture. Their aim is for the girls not merely to become mothers but, first and foremost, to have the opportunity to become professional women with an enlightened outlook.

The orphanage currently houses 43 young girls and a five-year-old boy. There are only girls in this centre apart from this little boy, who is an exception as he is one of a family of 7 children in which he is the twin brother of one of the girls.

The team is made up of a secretary, a social worker, 5 teachers, 14 paid workers (gardening, maintenance, etc.) and 11 women volunteers.

Aid and assistance to the orphanage come from several sources (NGOs, institutions, civil society and others) in different forms (financial, donations of clothes, etc.). The Municipality does not make any donations but does provide administrative assistance, e.g. granting permits where necessary. During Ramadan, the women organise an important suspension of the fast in order to collect funds.





After these exchanges, we were shown around the orphanage where our attention was drawn by a Belgian flag stuck to the side of a wardrobe. We learned that one of the young girls in the orphanage is a fan of Belgium. The Belgium of her dreams or the Europe of her dreams! A place she knows (and will probably only ever know) from the media. We asked to meet her in order to give her a book about Brussels.

We left the orphanage with feelings of gratitude and admiration for these women volunteers and the work they are doing. They are trying to give these children a future on a solid basis, that of education. Theirs is an altruistic investment that will prevent these young girls from sliding into poverty.

We finished the evening with a meal face to face with the Governor and Minister, Adnan Husseini, in an atmosphere that was a little glum but also pleasant. While he was telling us about the prisoners on hunger strike, he learned that UNESCO had just voted on a resolution criticising Israel's occupation of East Jerusalem (2 May, the day on which the sixty-ninth year of the independence of the Jewish State was celebrated). The Israelis, on the other hand, considered this decision shameful and denounced the attitude of UNESCO.



2.3. Day 3: Wednesday 3 May 2017

Programme: - Visit to the “Islamic Industrial School” for orphans

- Visit to the Greek Orthodox Church of Al-Azariya*
- Visit to the Al-Azariya Youth Club*
- Visit to the VACA Association (Vision Association for Culture and Arts)*
- Visit to the Al-Quds University*
- Visit to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem*

Islamic Industrial School for orphans

We began our day with a visit to the Islamic industrial School for orphans, where we were received by the new director, Mr. Bark Mansour and some members of the teaching staff.

The first school was founded in 1922 in the old town of East Jerusalem. After the war, many children were left without parents. The school was founded in order to provide education for orphans. Today, it also welcomes children who are not orphans.

In 1950, it was the second school in Al-Azhariyah to open its doors. Since the building of the “Apartheid Wall”, there are almost no connections between the 2 schools anymore, as a pass is needed to get there, which has led to operational difficulties like having 2 sets of staff members.



Today, the school in the old town only has 20 pupils, as opposed to 500 previously. The school’s geographic location is putting a brake on the pupils, preventing them from finishing their schooling and the school keeps on losing pupils.

The school that we visited has 680 pupils (including 123 orphans) with 150 pupils being housed in the school. The teaching staff is made up of 43 staff members paid for by the Palestinian government, under the authority of the Minister for Education.

There are several departments within the establishment:

- **Printing**



- **Woodwork**



- **Metal work**



- **Mechanics**



The infrastructure has an enormous surface area and the workshops for apprentices are huge. However, the school lacks equipment in certain areas and also school materials (such as books and computers). It runs thanks to gifts produce. The pupil furniture (sofas, of drawers and sold on the market. an appeal through school needs world, not only political in order to to the Israeli

3 years ago, the equivalent to 60,000 cooperation as well equipment.



and the sale of their apprentices produce beds, wardrobes, chests tables), which are then The Director is launching us, to the effect that the support from the entire economic but also face the difficulties due occupation.

school received aid dollars from Belgian as production

Mr. Mansour is a new director with a new vision. He would like to make changes, including creating a cyberspace, a games room for playing, etc.

→ We shall make sure to act when Saint-Josse is replacing its IT equipment. The old computers could be sent to them and given a new lease of life.

We also visited the primary school section, which has 42 pupils. This is a day school with no orphans. The school also has a multi-use room, equipped only with chairs and a large stage where conferences, theatre shows and concerts can be organised.



Greek Orthodox Church



The programme continues with a visit to the Greek Orthodox church, situated not far away from Lazarus' tomb. The church dates from the 14th century and an annex was built in 1965. It's a very charming place, in the middle of a carefully tended flower garden and is occupied by 7 nuns who take care of the place and dedicate their life to God.



Sister Baraksya welcomed us to the convent. She was a little, elderly lady, dressed very simply in a black dress with a black headscarf

over her white hair, who did not say much but nevertheless treated us with the utmost generosity and hospitality: cold drinks, traditional pastries, sweets etc. and she gave Mr. Jassin 2 boxes of incense. In Christian tradition, incense is associated with the different forms of God's presence. Its use serves to demonstrate faith in the divine presence, in the case of the Three Kings. By giving the baby Jesus this precious resin, used in the ancient world in rituals connecting man and God, they recognised that



the baby in the manger was the son of God. For some believers incense is used to purify the atmosphere, to dispel demons and when the smoke rises towards the sky, it symbolises and accompanies the prayers of the faithful rising towards God.

Al-Azhariyah Youth Club

In the late morning, we went to the Al-Azhariyah youth club. This was built in 2006, over two floors. The ground floor was financed from funds received from Germany and the 2nd floor was funded by the Palestinian State. This part is not entirely finished. Opposite the building, there is a playground, which was developed with aid from the Belgian state.



The Club also receives donations from the Palestinian Sports Union. Donations were also needed to purchase equipment.

The Club offers cultural, sports and social activities for girls and boys free of charge. However, they are asked for a symbolic contribution of 2 Dollars per year. A charge of 20 Shekels was originally requested (the equivalent of 5 Euros) but the children didn't come.

It is currently frequented by 140 youths under 14 years and 80 over 14 years of age, after school hours up to 10 p.m.

The Municipality of Al-Azhariyah does not have a football pitch. As a result, young people have to go to 2 other towns to use their pitches.

When you go into the club, you can see the beginnings of a football pitch. Indeed, there is a project underway but they are waiting for funding before it can be completed. Once the authorities release the necessary subsidy, the land situated alongside the youth club will be used as a football pitch.



Vision Association for Culture and Arts



We visited the last NGO, Vision Association for Culture and Arts – VACA. It was founded in 2008 by someone extremely sensitive with a strong desire to change things. Milad W. Vosgeritchian, the co-founder and president of the association told us, as we were shown around the association’s premises and the work carried out, that the VACA’s first priority is to include art among the tools for artistic resistance and self-determination. In his view, children should not have to pay the price for violence, hatred and antagonism.

The idea of wanting to make a difference motivated his creation of the association and promotion of peace, justice and equality. He is convinced that the only way to transform the children’s internalised conflict is to provide them with a positive environment, a safe place for learning and developing. He told us how happy he is when he sees the Palestinian children smiling and that the most important thing is to feel that they have hope in their hearts.

The Association uses funds obtained both nationally and internationally, e.g. from the Japanese Business Minister, Japanese NGOs, the Netherlands and the Israel/ Palestine network to implement programmes in order to:

- enhance cultural, artistic and literary awareness among children, young people and women;
- allow women to take action and develop young people through education;
- reduce the stress and aggression caused by the political situation through an entertainment programme.



The various programmes are implemented through summer courses, dance and music lessons, nurse-ries, remedial classes and IT courses.

After the visit, we sat in a room where the children who attend the centre sang 2 songs about Palestine for us with great fervour.

Al-Quds University



We continued our programme with a visit to the Al-Quds University situated in Jerusalem. “Al Quds” means Jerusalem in Arabic.

We entered a fabulous setting with a full complex even containing a museum. The Vice-Chancellor, Hasan Dweik, received us in one of the university offices.



The Al-Quds University was founded in 1984 and is the only university in the world to have a wall running through it. The main campus, which we visited, is situated in Abu Dis, on one side of the wall, on the outskirts of Jerusalem, while three other campuses are on the other side of the wall and there is another site in Ramallah.

It was only from 1995 onward, after the official merger of colleges and faculties that the Al-Quds University was recognised as a single institution. The first degrees were issued in 2001.

The campus extends over 205 km². There are 15 faculties and 55 disciplines with over 1,000 teachers available to the students. With a total of 13,000 students, on average 2,500 students graduate but only 20% of them find jobs. Moreover, the cost of knowledge is high and it is often difficult for parents to pay the fees although they do their very best to do so.

Mr. Dweik also confirmed that Palestinians are very focused on education. It's undoubtedly the only way out for them. Many young people no longer believe in a single Palestine so their studies are the only way for them to get out of their country and find a better life somewhere else where human rights are respected and their lives are not constantly in danger.

Before we said our goodbyes, the Vice-Chancellor told us he was delighted about the signing of the partnership agreement with the Municipality of Al-Azhariyah. He then explained that in order to remain at the forefront in the university world, they are setting up international partnerships with American and European universities, including universities in Belgium, France and Italy.



We finished with a visit to the “ABU JIHAD” museum, built at this university site in April 2007. In that museum, spanning 3 floors, the Palestinian authority has gathered everything connected with the Palestinian people’s fight for their self-determination.



It illustrates the will and the challenges confronting the Palestinians. This is a militant museum testifying to the suffering of the Palestinian people and also the conditions in which their prisoners are detained and the torture methods employed by the Israeli occupiers.



The international dimension of the Palestinians’ fight for their basic freedom is given predominant coverage. Indeed, many peoples all over the world have suffered or are still suffering all kinds of persecution. But all have one thing in common with the Palestinian cause: that of defining their individual freedom and respecting their differences. That is the context within which the Museum contributes to international solidarity in the face of the oppression of the Palestinian people.



At the entrance to the museum, there is a reconstruction of the “Apartheid Wall.”

Visit to the Church of the Nativity

We rounded off the programme with a visit to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, which is one of the oldest churches in the world and presumed to be the place of birth of Jesus.



Despite the crowds of pilgrims, our companions were able to show us the exact place where Christ was born without having to queue. Given the number of visitors, the visits are very regimented (queues, time slots to be respected, entry by the southern door, exit by the north).



The church was designed as a classical Roman basilica. According to tradition, the exact spot is indicated under the “nativity altar” (an altar placed there during the Byzantine era, in a niche) by a silver star with fourteen branches representing the 14 stations of the cross or which symbolise the three series of fourteen generations between Abraham and Jesus. The centre of star has a hole, which allows pilgrims to embrace the original rock (made smooth by the passage of millions of pilgrims’ hands) while the rest of the floor is covered with marble.

2.4. Day 4: Thursday 4 May 2017

*Programme: “Visit to the Belgian ambassador in Jerusalem -
Departure for the airport*

The third and last day of our visits saw us wend our way to the Belgian consulate in Jerusalem. We were welcomed by the consul, Bruno Jans and the director of political affairs, Marie Cherchari. This was a very brief courtesy visit due to the Consul’s busy schedule but the contact was invaluable for the future. Mr. Jans also emphasised that it was important for the Belgian authorities to keep their representatives abroad informed of any initiatives.

He told us that his posting was drawing to a close and his position would be taken over by Daniele Haeven from September onwards. He reminded us that the consulate would be at our disposal if we ever needed it.

That visit marked the end of our mission to Palestine.



Conclusion

Notre mission a été accomplie avec succès. La rencontre avec les autorités d'Aïzaria et la signature du partenariat étaient les principales réalisations à effectuer.

Certes le séjour était court mais il fut très intense. Les différentes visites techniques et historiques, les rencontres politiques et associatives, ... ont permis de connaître la culture et la communauté palestinienne. Nous y avons découvert des endroits magnifiques au niveau du patrimoine. Avec la visite des associations, nous avons ouvert la coopération au monde associatif et à la société civile.

Nous avons rencontré des gens formidables travailleurs et courageux, qui restent d'humeur jovial malgré le contexte dans lequel ils se trouvent. Les murs et les checkpoints sont le quotidien des Palestiniens. Tout cela ressemble à une vaste prison à ciel ouvert sous haute surveillance. Pour eux, chaque jour est différent, ils ne savent jamais ce qui va se passer.

Nous avons constaté que la confiscation des terres par les autorités israéliennes étrangle tout (la production industrielle, l'importation / exportation...). Quatre-vingt pour cents des jeunes sortant de l'université sont sans emploi. Les déplacements dans les villes sont limités sur le territoire palestinien. Une situation qui permet de comprendre l'attente légitime des entités palestiniennes envers les pays européens : chaque lien qu'elles créent est un nouvel espoir pour elles.

Nous sommes donc convaincus que les retombées d'un tel partenariat peuvent être bénéfiques tant pour nos acteurs que pour ceux de l'Autorité palestinienne. D'une part, il suscite chez les participants la curiosité envers l'autre ainsi que la tolérance et la mixité. Il favorise les échanges concrets, le partage de connaissances et de savoir-faire, d'autre part. C'est une belle illustration du savoir-vivre ENSEMBLE.

Dans cette optique, une nouvelle mission sera organisée dans le courant de l'année 2018 avec des membres du Conseil consultatif de la Solidarité Nord / Sud pour favoriser les contacts et permettre ainsi de créer des synergies, de mieux connaître et comprendre le sens d'un tel partenariat. Par la même occasion, nous rencontrerons les nouveaux mandataires de la Municipalité d'Aïzaria pour élaborer un programme.

Par ailleurs, nous continuerons à montrer notre solidarité à la population palestinienne. Notamment à l'occasion de la Semaine « Saint-Josse, Place pour Tous » du 3 au 8 octobre 2017, la Palestine sera mise à l'honneur. Les activités de la Semaine seront exclusivement dédiées à des artistes palestiniens ou des sujets palestiniens.

De retour de mission, nous sommes encore davantage disposés à engager une dynamique pour une solidarité envers le peuple palestinien, envers un Etat où il y a en permanence une violation des droits de l'homme, où la réalité dépasse l'imagination. Un sentiment différent nous a envahi et nous sommes revenus de mission complètement « changé ».



Appendix



**PROTOCOLE DE COLLABORATION ENTRE LA
COMMUNE DE SAINT-JOSSE-TEN-NOODE ET LA COMMUNE D'AZARIA**

Considérant que la Commune de Saint-Josse-ten-Noode a acté sa volonté de jouer un rôle actif dans le domaine de la coopération au développement en sa délibération du Conseil communal du 28 janvier 2013, notamment dans le cadre de la coopération au développement communale,

Considérant que ces liens ne peuvent se consolider que par un partenariat responsable entre les deux Communes,

ENTRE

La Commune de Saint-Josse-ten-Noode, ici représentée par son Collège communal, au nom duquel agissent Monsieur Emir Kir, Bourgmestre, et Monsieur Patrick Neve, Secrétaire communal,

ET

La Commune d'Alzarria (Palestine), ici représentée par ses autorités municipales, au nom desquelles agit Mosa Al-Shaer, Maire,

IL A ETE CONVENU CE QUI SUIT:

Article 1 - Principes

Les partenaires s'engagent à promouvoir les principes énoncés ci-dessous et définis à l'annexe 1 du présent protocole, tant dans la conception que dans la mise en œuvre de leurs actions de coopération:

- égalité, solidarité, réciprocité, subsidiarité;
- précaution, prévention, réversibilité;
- partenariat, participation, formation, transversalité, articulation entre les territoires et dans le temps;
- transparence, information, évaluation, capitalisation.

Article 2 - Objectifs

Les objectifs du présent protocole sont d'œuvrer conjointement au renforcement du niveau local, lequel repose sur **trois piliers indissociables**:

- une bonne gouvernance politique;
- une administration efficace;

- une participation des citoyens dans le processus décisionnel.

Article 3 - Domaines d'action

Les partenaires s'engagent à unir leurs efforts de coopération dans l'un ou plusieurs des domaines d'action suivants, jugés prioritaires. Il s'agit de mener des actions sociales d'une manière transversale c'est-à-dire pouvant toucher à la fois l'économie, la culture, le sport, etc.

Article 4 - Plans d'action

Il sera dressé annuellement, en concertation entre les partenaires, un plan d'action commun en vue d'atteindre les objectifs fixés ultérieurement dans ce(s) domaine(s) d'action. Dans le cadre de la coopération au développement communale, ces plans d'action seront couchés dans la convention spécifique liant les deux Communes partenaires.

Pour la Commune de Saint-Josse-ten-Noode

Pour la Commune d'Alzarria

Par ordonnances :
Le Collège des Bourgmestre et Echevins,
Le Secrétaire communal.

Le Maire

Patrick Neve

Emir Kir

Mosa Al-Shaer

Fait à Alzarria, le 2 mai 2017.

2/5/2017



**SAMENWERKINGSPROTOCOL TUSSEN
DE GEMEENTE SINT-JOOST-TEN-NODE EN DE
GEMEENTE VAN AIZARIA**

Overwegende dat de gemeente Sint-Joost-ten-Node, na beraadslaging van de gemeenteraad op 28 januari 2013, actief wil samenwerken aan de ontwikkeling,

Overwegende dat deze verhoudingen slechts versterkt kunnen worden door een verantwoordelijk partnerschap tussen beide gemeenten,

WERD HET VOLGENDE OVEREENGEKOMEN

TUSSEN

De Gemeente Sint-Joost-ten-Node, hier vertegenwoordigd door haar College van Burgemeester en Schepenen, in wiens naam Dhr Emir Kir, Burgemeester, en Dhr Patrick Neve, Gemeentesecretaris optreden,

EN

De Gemeente Aizaria hier vertegenwoordigd door Mosa Al-Shaer, Burgemeester,

HET VOLGENDE OVEREENGEKOMEN

Artikel 1. Grondbeginselen

De partners verbinden zich ertoe de hieronder vermelde grondbeginselen, bepaald in bijlage 1 van dit protocol, zowel in de ontwikkeling als in de uitvoering van hun samenwerkingsacties, te bevorderen:

- Gelijkheid, solidariteit, wederkerigheid, subsidiariteit;
- Behoedzaamheid, preventie, omkeerbaarheid;
- Partnerschap, deelname, opleiding, transversaliteit, verbondenheid tussen plaatsen en generaties;
- Transparantie, informatie, evaluatie, kapitalisatie.

Artikel 2. Doelstellingen

De doelstelling van dit protocol is het samenwerken aan de versterking van het plaatselijke niveau, dat is gebaseerd op **drie onlosmakelijk verbonden pijlers**:

- een goed politiek bestuur;
- een efficiënte administratie;
- burgerlijke participatie aan het beslissingsproces.

Artikel 3. Actiegebieden

De partners verbinden zich ertoe om hun krachten te bundelen in een of meerdere van de volgende primaire actiegebieden. De bedoeling is om sociale acties te voeren op een transversale manier, d.w.z. die tegelijk betrekking kunnen hebben op economie, cultuur, sport enz.

Artikel 4. Actieplannen

Jaarlijks wordt er in onderling overleg een gezamenlijk actieplan opgesteld om de doelstellingen voor dit (deze) actiegebied(en) te bereiken.

Voor de gemeente Sint-Joost-ten-Node

Voor de gemeente Aizaria

In opdracht:
De Gemeentesecretaris, Het College van
Burgemeester en Schepenen,

De Burgemeester

Patrick Neve
Emir Kir
i. O. van
dhr. Patrick Neve
Schepenen

Mosa Al-Shaer



Opgemaakt te Aizaria, op .. 2/5/2017

2/5/2017



**COOPERATION PROTOCOL BETWEEN
THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAINT-JOSSE-TEN-NOODE AND
THE MUNICIPALITY OF AIZARIA**

Considering that the municipality of Saint-Josse-Ten-Noode, after deliberation of the municipal council on the 28th January 2013, is willing to work actively in the field of development cooperation, more specifically in municipal cooperation development,

Considering that these relations can only be enhanced by a responsible partnership between both municipalities,

THE FOLLOWING WAS AGREED

BETWEEN

The Municipality of Saint-Josse-Ten-Noode, represented by its College of Mayor and Aldermen, on whose behalf Mr Emir Kir, Mayor, and Mr Patrick Neve, the Town Clerk,

AND

The Municipality of Aizaria represented by Mosa Al-Shaer, Mayor,

Article 1. Principles

The partners undertake to enhance all the principles mentioned below, provided under appendix 1 of this protocol, in the development as well as in the execution of their cooperation actions:

- Equality, solidarity, reciprocity, subsidiarity;
- Wariness, prevention, reversibility;
- Partnership, participation, training, transversality, connection between places and generations;
- Transparency, information, evaluation, capitalization.

Article 2. Purposes

The purpose of this protocol is the collaboration on the enhancement of the local level, which is based on **three inseparable pillars**:

- a good political government;
- an efficient administration;
- civil participation in the decision making process.

Article 3. Fields of action

The partners undertake to join forces in one or more of the following primary areas of action: The purpose is to take social actions in a transversal way, meaning that they can at the same time relate to economy, culture, sports etc.

Article 4. Action plans

Every year a joint action plan is drafted after consultation to achieve the objectives of this (these) action area (s) in the field of municipal cooperation development. The program of intervention should be included in the specific convention linked the both municipalities partnership.

For the municipality of Saint-Josse-Ten-Noode

For the municipality of Aizaria

By Order :
The Town Clerk, College of
Mayor and Aldermen,

The Mayor

Patrick Neve
Emir Kir
i. O. van
dhr. Patrick Neve
Town Clerk

Mosa Al-Shaer



Aizaria, .. 2/5/2017

2/5/2017