



**Ordine degli Avvocati
di Firenze**



Ramallah, 28 February 2016

The Palestinian Bar Association (PBA) and the Florence Bar Association (FBA) have met and conducted a cooperation and capacity building workshop in Ramallah, on 27 and 28 February 2016. The meeting took place in the context of the close collaboration between the two Bars, based on the Cooperation Agreement signed in September 2013 in Italy.

The FBA was represented by a Delegation composed by its President, a Councilman, the Director of the Secretariat, and a member of the International Affairs and Relations Committee. The PBA participated with its President, five Councilmen, and several members of the Secretariat and the PBA main Office.

The two days workshop agenda foresaw the presentation of the FBA structure, organization, and functions in the first day. In the afternoon, the FBA Delegation also visited the new headquarters of the PBA that are funded by the European Union. During the second day, the PBA presented the duties and responsibilities that the Bar and some of its identified personnel deal with, and opened for debate its draft reorganization ideas.

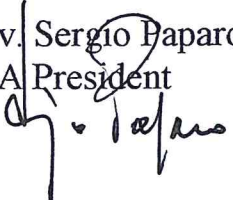
The PBA President, Hussein Shabaneh, has underlined the importance of the lawyers' functions in protecting the legality of the society where they operate, monitoring the separation of powers, fostering the justice system, and complete the process of building of the public institutions.

The FBA President, Sergio Paparo, in his opening speech has referred to the role of the Bar Associations also in a European perspective and the readiness of the FBA to help the PBA in its external relations with its possible participation in an upcoming international round-table hosted in Florence, and to the specific and fundamental responsibilities on the protection and promotion of the Human Rights from but also of the lawyers.

As conclusion of the workshop, the Palestinian Bar Association and the Florence Bar Association reaffirm the wish to continue their cooperation to enhance:

- That the PBA insures the training of lawyers at the highest standard of any field of law, including Human Rights Law
- The necessity that lawyers are put in the condition to perform their duties freely, and that the Bar can insure and assist them in the discharge of their mandate for a fair and impartial justice system
- The crucial importance for the Bar Association to have a distinct, efficient, and effective structure and organization
- The empowerment of Bar Committees as true engine of the Bars
- The precise redaction of a Code of Conduct and the rigorous conduction of disciplinary proceedings, to be well structured so to insure the transparent protection of the rights of all involved in these proceedings
- The development and optimization of the International Affairs and Relations capacities of the Bar, to properly administer the delicate dossiers of this pivotal activity

In this spirit, and acknowledging the progress shown by the PBA in these two days of works, the FBA and the PBA confirm their commitment in the mutual cooperation and welcome the planning of an upcoming visit of PBA to Florence.

Adv. Sergio Paparo
FBA President


Adv. Hussein Shabaneh
PBA President


Done in Ramallah on February 28^h, 2016