

Shimon Peres: “Our enemy is our enemy, and that is terror”

“We want to make peace with Palestinians. We recognise their rights. We recognise their right to live independently, in fairness and in prosperity. They are not our enemies. Our enemies are neither their religion nor their state. Our enemy is our enemy, and that is terror,” the Prime Minister of Israel Shimon Peres stressed in his speech before the PACE plenary session on 23 January 2002.

“Time wasted is wasted opportunities, too. What could have been achieved with relative ease yesterday is already difficult to attain today. The possibilities of today may become the impossibilities of tomorrow,” he added.

“ We did not come to ask the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to be one-sided and to be against the rights and the future of the Palestinians, but to save them from their own agony and their own mistakes and to bring an end to terror. I believe that a joint position by the United States, a united Europe, Russia and other countries will be extremely efficient in helping the Palestinians to escape a chaotic situation that involves divided forces,” he concluded.

Shimon Peres urges Europe to be uncompromising in combating international terrorism

“I am convinced that Europe is aware of Israel’s current, sincere efforts to put an end to hostility and belligerency and to replace the threat of war with the hope of coexistence,” Prime Minister Shimon Peres said in his speech before PACE on 22 April 1986.

Referring to the obstacles on the road to peace, he recalled that “belligerency is also manifested in outbursts of terrorism, domestic and international.” (...) “at times to exert political pressure; at others, only to wind headlines in the press. All too often its aim is continued conflict and the perpetuation of a problem. Its perpetrators seek neither a partner to negotiations nor a solution.”

“History has known bursts of religious and political extremism manifested in open warfare as well as terrorism. Their duration was determined largely by the apathy of onlookers. Combating international terrorism should be immediate, comprehensive, constant, and consistent in its application. It must be co-operatively executed. Terrorism is uncompromising in its actions: thus confronting it must also be uncompromising. A firm commitment to such a policy by the free world – the main theatre for their action – and surely by the European countries can tame the patrons of terrorism and contain the problem.”

[Video from 1986](#)