



## **Cyprus Conference**

### **The Institute of Federalism supports the Construction of a Palestinian Constitutional State and the Strengthening of the Rule of Law in Palestine**

Prof. Peter Hänni and Prof. Eva Maria Belser have been invited to participate in an international conference held in Limassol, Cyprus, on 25-27 January 2009. The Cyprus Conference addressed the debate relating to the term of office of the President of the Palestine National Authority. The aim of the conference was to analyse the controversy from a constitutional point of view.

The Cyprus Conference bringing together legal experts from Palestine, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Lebanon, the United Kingdom and Switzerland was organised by Musawa, a Ramallah based NGO, aiming at the strengthening of the rule of law in the Palestinian territories.

The joint opinion of the four European experts concluded that the term of office of president Abbas came to an end on 8 January 2009 and that presidential elections should take place within the constitutionally provided period of 60 days. It further stated that if for political or practical reasons it should prove impossible to organise presidential elections within this period, a consensus regarding the term should be found through an inclusive and participatory process of all relevant political groups. (Download [Joint Opinion](#)).