Question for written answer E-000174/2025
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Rule 144
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Subject: EU response to US threats of sanctions in conjunction with the Spanish Government's measures to deny port of call to ships carrying arms to Israel

In December 2024, the US Federal Maritime Commission initiated an investigation[1] with a view to imposing sanctions on Spanish vessels and denying them entry into US ports. This is in response to measures adopted by the Spanish Government to prevent its ports being used by ships carrying arms that could be used by Israel in the 'plausible genocide' against Palestinians in Gaza.

In taking the measures (which have so far been limited to denying port of call to three ships which were carrying arms to Israel), the Spanish Government has exercised its sovereignty[2] (complying with international law and in line with the International Court of Justice rulings of 26 January, 28 March, 24 May and 19 June 2024). Not only that, it is also complying with its obligations under Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP, Council Regulation (EU) 2020/1998 and Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement. In light of this:

1. Does the VP/HR intend to officially convey her support for these measures to her American counterpart, as well as reject the United States' threats to, and interference in, the sovereignty of a Member State?

2. Does the VP/HR intend to adopt, at EU level, similar measures preventing complicity with Israel's crimes in Palestine, as well as recommend that Member States do the same?

Submitted: 16.1.2025

[1] https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/12/06/2024-28709/investigation-into-conditions-affecting-shipping-in-the-foreign-trade-and-denial-of-entry-of-vessels

[2] https://elpais.com/espana/2024-12-20/espana-apela-a-su-soberania-para-responder-a-la-amenaza-de-sanciones-por-vetar-la-escala-de-buques-con-armas-para-israel.html