Question for written answer E-000946/2025
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Rule 144
Vicent Marzà Ibáñez (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Escalation in the West Bank and annexation threats by Israeli authorities

Despite the limited media attention, the current escalation of violence in the West Bank is extremely worrisome. Since 21 January 2025, an extensive Israeli military operation has resulted in the deaths of more than 50 Palestinians in the northern West Bank. So far, over 40 000 people have been forcibly displaced – an unprecedented level of displacement, the largest since 1967. On 22 February 2025, Israeli tanks entered the West Bank for the first time in twenty years. On 23 February 2025, Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz announced that he had instructed the Israel Defense Forces to remain in certain refugee camps and to prevent displaced residents from returning to their homes.

As already emphasised by various organisations, violence against the Palestinian population in the West Bank is not a new phenomenon but rather part of a longstanding strategy of control, colonisation, and annexation. Since October 2023 and the subsequent ceasefire in Gaza, this pattern has intensified, accompanied by explicit public statements from Israeli officials expressing their intent to annex the West Bank.

Considering all of this, what actions does the Vice President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy plan to take to actively prevent the ongoing unlawful annexation of the West Bank by Israel, which will further undermine Palestinian existence?

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