

**Question for written answer E-004122/2025
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Gas exploration licences in Palestinian maritime areas

On 29 October 2023, the Israeli Ministry of Energy announced licences for natural gas exploration in maritime areas belonging to the State of Palestine¹. These licences were granted to Dana Petroleum, Ratio Petroleum, ENI, BP, Azera Socar and NewMed Energy².

The licensed zones reportedly overlap with maritime areas declared by Palestine in 2019 under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Oslo Accords. Palestinian human rights organisations (Al-Haq, Al Mezan, PCHR, Adalah) have warned that these concessions may breach international humanitarian and customary law, including Article 55 of the Hague Regulations governing natural resources in occupied territories.

The exploitation of such resources by an occupying power constitutes a breach of international law, aggravates the conflict and sets a precedent for further de facto annexation. Paragraph 10 of the UN Economic and Social Council Resolution of 30 July 2025³ reaffirms the ban on the economic exploitation of occupied territories such as the State of Palestine.

In the light of this, can the Commission indicate:

1. Whether it is aware of these concessions, their legal implications, and if it considers such acts to be compatible with the EU's obligations under international law?
2. Whether it will consider a precautionary approach to the purchase of resources that may have been obtained while breaching international humanitarian and customary law?
3. Whether it will consider this issue in the assessment of measures towards Israel regarding confirmed violations of international humanitarian and customary law in Gaza?

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¹ https://www.un.org/Depts/los/LEGISLATIONANDTREATIES/PDFFILES/PSE_Deposit_09-2019.pdf.

² <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/israel-awards-gas-exploration-licences-eni-bp-four-others-2023-10-29/>.

³ <https://docs.un.org/en/E/RES/2025/33>.