

Question for written answer E-004148/2026/rev.1

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: Statements by Israeli Minister Bezalel Smotrich on southern Lebanon

Referring to Israel's operations in southern Lebanon, Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich recently stated that 'the cleansing [they] are currently carrying out in Lebanon is unprecedented', adding that residents of the affected areas 'will have nowhere to return to' and that 'the world is not stopping [them]'.

The minister is also reported to have made other statements referring to parts of Lebanese territory remaining under Israeli control. These remarks come at a time when the civilian population is suffering severe consequences and widespread displacement has persisted for months in southern Lebanon.

In light of the above:

1. Is the Vice-President / High Representative aware of these statements, and what does she make of them given the EU's position on Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity?
2. Does she consider any statements envisaging the permanent occupation, annexation or depopulation of parts of the Lebanese territory to be compatible with international law and Israel's commitments under its agreements with the EU?
3. Does she intend to raise this matter with the relevant Israeli and Lebanese authorities and take specific steps to ensure respect for Lebanon's integrity and the protection of the local civilian population?

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