

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001358/24
to the Commission
João Oliveira (The Left)
(16 July 2024)**

Subject: Suspension of the EU-Israel Association Agreement and recognition of the State of Palestine

The genocide of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, which has been widely denounced internationally, has been going on for months.

Israeli bombings have killed an estimated 38 000 Palestinians and injured more than 78 000, including thousands of children. Israel is also blocking humanitarian aid to the Palestinian population. Scientific journal *The Lancet* suggests 186 000 Palestinians have died as a direct or indirect result of the conflict — 7.9% of the population in the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, in the West Bank, Palestinians continue to be murdered, attacked and forced out of their homes by Israeli military forces and settlers, as plans to build further settlements are announced.

Israel is advancing and expanding its occupation and colonisation of Palestinian land with impunity, failing to comply with UN resolutions and hindering a two-state solution.

The massacres must stop, an immediate, permanent ceasefire must begin, unlimited access for humanitarian aid must be provided, Palestinian and Israeli prisoners must be released and a State of Palestine must be created, as established by UN resolutions.

Among other measures to move towards achieving those goals:

1. Will the Commission propose suspending the EU-Israel Association Agreement to the Council?
2. Will the Commission propose that Member States recognise the State of Palestine, as determined decades ago by UN resolutions?

Submitted: 16.7.2024

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell i Fontelles on behalf of the European Commission
(9 September 2024)**

1. The EU has been consistently clear in conveying its concerns through political engagement and frank and open dialogue, including to the Israeli partners. The Association Agreement with Israel ⁽¹⁾ is the legal basis of the ongoing dialogue with the Israeli authorities and provides important mechanisms to discuss issues and advance the EU point of view. In that regard, the EU is looking forward to convening an Association Council with Israel as soon as possible.

2. The recognition of states is the competence of the Member States. The EU has a longstanding commitment to a just and comprehensive resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, based on the two-state solution. The EU will continue its strong support to the Palestinian Authority, including through a multi-year support package on the basis of agreed reforms to help pave the way for a two-state solution.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX%3A22000A0621%2801%29>