

(English version)

Question for written answer E-001408/24
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Kostas Papadakis (NI), Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)
(24 July 2024)

Subject: Urgent need to open all humanitarian corridors in Gaza and tackle the conditions endangering the health of Palestinians

The ongoing crime of genocide perpetrated on the Palestinian people by the occupying state of Israel has resulted, to date, in the deaths of tens of thousands of people. Under the criminal responsibility of Israel and those powers that support it by encouraging it, such as the EU, the USA and NATO, the two crossings (between Gaza and Egypt) for humanitarian aid remain closed, while the Erez crossing (between Gaza and Israel) is only being opened on a rotating basis.

Can the Vice-President/High Representative say what his view is of the urgent need:

1. for Israel, the declared ally of the EU, to immediately open all possible humanitarian corridors with the aim of immediately providing clean water, food and medical care in order to protect the lives of the wounded among the long-suffering Palestinian people from the slaughter to which they are condemned by the Israeli occupation?
2. for immediate funding and support for the rescue, staffing and equipping of the remaining hospitals and urgent planning for the creation of emergency healthcare units to help cover the needs in place of those hospitals that have been destroyed?
3. to condemn Israel's criminal policy and to withdraw all economic, political and military cooperation with it by the EU or the governments of Member States that encourage it to continue the occupation and atrocities against the Palestinian people, resulting, to date, in the deaths of tens of thousands of Palestinians, including children, women, people with disabilities and the chronically ill, as well as their brutal displacement from their territories?

Submitted: 24.7.2024

Answer given by Mr Lenarčič on behalf of the European Commission
(26 November 2024)

The European Council has repeatedly called for an immediate end to the hostilities, the protection of civilians, the respect for international law and international humanitarian law, and the facilitation of humanitarian assistance ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾ ⁽³⁾.

The High Representative/Vice-President has consistently urged Israel to grant and facilitate unimpeded humanitarian access to and within Gaza.

Throughout 2023 and 2024, the High Representative/Vice-President, alongside the Commissioner for Crisis Management, has consistently underscored the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza ⁽⁴⁾ ⁽⁵⁾ and repeatedly called for unimpeded humanitarian access ⁽⁶⁾ ⁽⁷⁾.

The EU has been clear that a deal on a sustained ceasefire and the release of hostages is a critical step in alleviating the humanitarian crisis and protecting the lives of the wounded and vulnerable populations affected by the conflict.

The EU, through its humanitarian partners, has allocated more than EUR 290 million of humanitarian aid to Palestine ⁽⁸⁾ in 2023 and 2024, including significant amounts to support health services.

The EU humanitarian partners have been delivering critical medical supplies in difficult circumstances. The EU has also supported the deployment of Emergency Medical Teams as well as medical evacuations and transported over 3 300 tonnes of humanitarian supplies.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/03/22/european-council-conclusions-21-and-22-march-2024/>

⁽²⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/04/18/european-council-conclusions-17-and-18-april-2024/>

⁽³⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/06/28/european-council-conclusions-27-june-2024/>

⁽⁴⁾ Statement by the High Representative/Vice-President and the Commissioner for Crisis Management on famine in Gaza, 18 March 2024, https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_24_1541

⁽⁵⁾ Joint Statement by the High Representative/Vice-President and the Commissioner for Crisis Management on the humanitarian situation in Gaza and West Bank, 17 April 2024, https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/news-stories/news/joint-statement-high-representativevice-president-josep-borrell-and-commissioner-janez-lenarctic-2024-04-17_en

⁽⁶⁾ Statement by the High Representative/Vice-President and the Commissioner for Crisis Management on the humanitarian situation and access constraints, 23 June 2024, https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/gaza-statement-high-representativevice-president-josep-borrell-and-commissioner-crisis-management_en

⁽⁷⁾ Joint statement by the High Representative/Vice-President and the Commissioner on Crisis Management on military action in Khan Younis, Gaza, 5 July 2024, https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/news-stories/news/joint-statement-high-representativevice-president-josep-borrell-and-commissioner-crisis-management-2024-07-05_en

⁽⁸⁾ This designation shall not be construed as a recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

The EU has been consistently clear in conveying its concerns through political engagement and frank and open dialogue, including to Israeli partners.

The Association Agreement ⁽⁹⁾ is the legal basis of the ongoing dialogue and cooperation with Israel and provides a useful mechanism to discuss issues of mutual concern and advance the EU's point of view.

⁽⁹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX%3A22000A0621%2801%29>