

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001778/24
to the Commission**

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(20 September 2024)

Subject: Resolution adopted by the UN on Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories

On 18 September 2024, the UN General Assembly took a historic decision regarding Israel's illegal occupation of Palestinian territories. An overwhelming majority of the world's countries decided that Israel must leave the occupied territories within one year. The message is clear: in the eyes of the international community, Israel's occupation of Palestine is a crime that must end.

The suffering of the Palestinian people has come to the world's attention, but the occupation of Palestine has been going on for decades. The International Court of Justice is clear, the UN is clear and now the world expects the EU to follow suit. The world now needs to make combined efforts to put an end to Israel's occupation of Palestine.

In the resolution it adopted, the UN calls for the countries of the world to end all arms trade with Israel, to boycott products from settlers, and to prevent Israel from continuing its occupation.

In the light of the UN's historic decision, and with the eyes of the world on the EU, we call on the Commission and the Council of Ministers to take action, and with that in mind:

What measures is the Commission intending to take to comply with the resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly?

Submitted: 20.9.2024

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

The EU has taken good note of the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in respect of the 'Legal consequences arising from the policies and practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem' ⁽¹⁾.

The EU has a long-standing position of non-recognition of Israel's sovereignty over the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 and considers Israel's settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory as illegal.

EU positions are fully aligned to the United Nations resolutions regarding the status of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and EU policies are therefore overall consistent with the conclusions of the Advisory Opinion of the ICJ.

All cooperation programmes must respect the 'Guidelines on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967' ⁽²⁾.

Member States will discuss the implications of the Advisory Opinion on EU positions and policies further in the relevant Council Working Groups.

The EU has already listed nine individuals and five entities under the EU's Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime ⁽³⁾ for serious and systematic human rights abuses against Palestinians in the West Bank.

Additional proposals are currently under discussion in the relevant Council Working Groups. Any decision to list additional individuals and entities is for the Council to adopt by unanimity.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.icj-cij.org/node/204176>

⁽²⁾ [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52013XC0719\(03\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52013XC0719(03))

⁽³⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/07/15/extremist-israeli-settlers-in-the-occupied-west-bank-and-east-jerusalem-as-well-as-violent-activists-blocking-humanitarian-aid-to-gaza-five-individuals-and-three-entities-sanctioned-under-the-eu-global-human-rights-sanctions-regime/> and <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/04/19/extremist-settlers-in-the-occupied-west-bank-and-east-jerusalem-council-sanctions-four-individuals-and-two-entities-over-serious-human-rights-abuses-against-palestinians/>