

The European Union is committed to a lasting and sustainable peace in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council, on the basis of the two-state solution, with the State of Israel and an independent, democratic, contiguous, sovereign and viable State of Palestine living side-by-side in peace, security and mutual recognition. The European Union will continue to work with international partners towards reviving the political process to this end. With regard to the occupied Palestinian territory, the European Union has condemned the Israeli government's decisions to further expand illegal settlements across the occupied West Bank and has urged Israel to reverse these decisions. The EU has also strongly condemned extremist settler violence and imposed sanctions on a number of specific individuals and entities concerned under the EU restrictive measures against serious human rights violations and abuses. The EU will take work forward on further restrictive measures against extremist settlers and against entities and organisations which support them¹.

As regards arms trade, the Council recalls its reply to Written Question P-003630/2023, and that the control on the export of arms by Member States is subject to national legislation, Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP² and the Arms Trade Treaty³ (ATT). The competent authorities of the Member States take the final decision on whether to authorise or deny an individual export or transit license for military equipment, in accordance with the said legal frameworks. The Council, through its competent Working Party, works towards increased convergence amongst Member States' arms export policies. This includes recent exchanges of views on the application of the criteria set out in the Common Position, in the light of the conflict in Gaza.

¹ Cf. European Council conclusions of 21-22/03/2024, 27/6/2024 and 17/10/2024
(<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/70880/euco-conclusions-2122032024.pdf>,
<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/qa3lblga/euco-conclusions-27062024-en.pdf>,
<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/2pebccz2/20241017-euco-conclusions-en.pdf>).

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32008E0944>.

³ <https://thearmstradetreaty.org/treaty-text.html?templateId=209884>.