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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell i Fontelles
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.11.2024)

The High Representative/Vice President (HR/VP) speaks on behalf of the EU. In the framework of his mandate to conduct the EU's foreign policy, the HR/VP may deliver ad hoc statements on current developments or in situations requiring an urgent or immediate response without seeking approval of the Council, as long as such statements remain within agreed EU policy positions.

The remarks of the HR/VP were made in the context of the EU's aim of avoiding regional escalation in the Middle East since the outbreak of the conflict in Gaza. Once the violence spread, the EU has been committed to help de-escalate the situation and reduce tensions. This was confirmed in the European Council conclusions of 17 October 2024¹ in which the EU called on all parties to exercise the utmost restraint, put an end to all hostilities immediately and fully abide by international law, including international humanitarian law. The HR/VP spares no effort to work with regional and international partners to reduce the risk of further escalation in the region, to find a way out of the crisis and to revive meaningful peace efforts.

¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/10/17/european-council-conclusions-17-october-2024/>