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E-002063/2024

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell i Fontelles
on behalf of the European Commission
(30.11.2024)

The EU systematically calls on the Israeli authorities on all occasions and public statements to open more border crossings. As stated during the High Representative/Vice-President's visit to the Rafah Border Crossing, the most urgent thing is to allow trucks and ambulances to enter and help those in need. The EU is prepared to reactivate the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Rafah mission to help the situation at the border, once security conditions allow.

The EU has imposed sanctions under the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime on several violent settlers and those who enable them. In July 2024, the Council approved restrictive measures against Tzav 9, an Israeli group which blocked humanitarian aid trucks delivering food, water and fuel to Gaza. The assets in the EU of those listed under the sanctions regime are frozen, and no funds or economic resources can be made available, directly or indirectly, to them or for their benefit. Additionally, a travel ban to the EU applies to the persons listed.

Delivering humanitarian aid to the population in Gaza is a shared priority. The inauguration of the Cyprus Maritime Corridor initiative on 7 March 2024 was an important step in this direction. An Humanitarian Air Bridge operation has been launched to aid the people affected by the crisis. As of October 2024, a total of 60 flights have transported over 3,400 tonnes of cargo, including medical supplies, shelter, WASH, and educational items, supplied by humanitarian partners, EU-owned stockpile items, and donations from Member States.