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E-002116/2024

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(3.1.2025)

The EU has repeatedly called¹ on Israel to fully comply with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, in all circumstances. It has recalled the need to fully implement the provisional measures orders rendered by the International Court of Justice on 26 January, 28 March, and 24 May 2024². As such, any actions by Israel must ensure the protection of civilians and their access to humanitarian aid³. In its conclusions of 17 October 2024⁴, the European Council reaffirmed its call for an immediate ceasefire, the unconditional release of all hostages, the urgent improvement of access and sustained distribution of humanitarian assistance at scale throughout Gaza, and an enduring end to hostilities, in line with United Nations Security Council Resolution 2735⁵.

Control on the export of arms by Member States is subject to national legislation, the Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP⁶ and the Arms Trade Treaty⁷ and any applicable restrictive measures. The Commission is not in a position to assess specific export cases against the criteria of the Common Position.

The EU strongly condemns the ongoing extremist settler violence in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. It has adopted two sets of sanctions under the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime against extremist settlers. The adoption of restrictive measures against individuals or entities is a matter for the Council to decide, further to a proposal from either the High Representative/Vice-President or a Member State.

¹ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/eu-statement-%E2%80%93-un-general-assembly-1st-committee-regional-disarmament-and-security-1_en?s=63;

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/2pebccz2/20241017-euco-conclusions-en.pdf>;

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/09/26/statement-by-the-high-representative-on-behalf-of-the-eu-on-the-military-escalation-between-israel-and-hezbollah/>

² <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240524-ord-01-00-en.pdf>; <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240328-ord-01-00-en.pdf>; <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240126-ord-01-00-en.pdf>

³ Geneva Convention (IV), Geneva, 12 August 1949.

⁴ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/10/17/european-council-conclusions-17-october-2024/>

⁵ <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/document/s-res-2735.php>

⁶ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32008E0944>

⁷ <https://thearmstradetreaty.org/treaty-text.html?templateId=209884>