

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002364/24
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Nikolaos Anadiotis (NI)
(30 October 2024)

Subject: War in the Middle East

A year ago, on 7 October 2023, Hamas launched a terrorist attack on Israel that continues to this day, with thousands of civilians losing their lives and with the intensity of the armed conflict in the Middle East continuing unabated. Israel's military attacks against Lebanon, Iran's retaliation against Israel, etc. show a clear escalation in the war. Thousands of civilians — a big proportion of them defenceless children and women ⁽¹⁾— have met tragic deaths, over a million people have been displaced as a result of the conflict, 300 000 children have died because of the horrific, among other things, food shortage and the rapid spread of disease ⁽²⁾.

In light of the above, the Vice-President /High Representative is asked:

1. What steps does the Vice-President /High Representative plan to take to protect the human rights of civilian populations and address the humanitarian crisis in the areas affected?
2. Does it plan to take decisive initiatives for hostilities to cease and peace to be restored in the Middle East and, if so, how exactly will it achieve this?

Submitted: 30.10.2024

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(11 February 2025)

The EU is deeply alarmed by the situation in the Middle East. The EU has consistently 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 ⁽¹⁾.

The EU welcomes the ceasefire agreements reached between Israel and Lebanon on 27 November 2024 and between Israel and Hamas on 19 January 2025.

The EU is constantly monitoring the humanitarian and human rights situation in the Middle East. Since the onset of the crisis in Gaza, the EU has deployed all available humanitarian instruments to ease the suffering of Palestinians, providing a total of EUR 330 million in aid, operated a humanitarian air bridge with 65 flights, and activated the EU Civil Protection Mechanism ⁽²⁾ for medical evacuations.

The EU increased its humanitarian aid to Lebanon by EUR 40 million, bringing the total to over EUR 104 million for 2024. The EU also continues to support the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East with EUR 82 million and a top of EUR 10 million disbursed in 2024.

The EU raises its concerns about the human rights' situation at bilateral and multilateral level. The EU deplores the unacceptable number of civilian casualties, especially women and children.

The EU remains committed to ending impunity and ensuring accountability for all violations of international law. The EU is active in upholding international justice, including supporting the International Criminal Court as an independent and impartial judicial body.

The EU is engaging with its partners to revitalise a political horizon and is ready to contribute to reviving a political process, on the basis of the two-state solution premise.

¹ <https://businessvoice.gr/diethni/790720/livanos-pano-apo-419-000-oi-ektopismenoi-synechizetai-to-sfyrokopima-apo-to-israil/>

² <https://unric.org/en/>

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/jhlehaj/euco-conclusions-19122024-en.pdf>

⁽²⁾ https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/civil-protection/eu-civil-protection-mechanism_en