

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000593/25

**to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
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(Verts/ALE), Matjaž Nemec (S&D), Özlem Demirel (The Left), Emma Fourreau (The Left), Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos
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Manon Aubry (The Left)
(10 February 2025)**

Subject: US President Trump's statements on ethnic cleansing in Gaza

On 4 February 2025, US President Donald Trump told reporters that the US would take over the Gaza Strip, displace the Palestinians there and exploit Gaza's resources. Gaza and its resources rightfully belong to the Palestinian people and any attempt to forcibly displace the Palestinian population or steal their resources is in flagrant breach of international law. Article 55 of the Hague Regulations specify that any occupying power does not have ownership of or the right to exploit the natural resources of an occupied territory.

Will the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy:

1. Affirm the EU's opposition to any proposals to forcibly displace the Palestinian population of Gaza or to steal their natural resources in contravention of international law?
2. Propose the imposition of sanctions on any individuals or entities who attempt to displace the Palestinian population of Gaza or to steal their natural resources in contravention of international law?
3. Inform the US Government of the EU's opposition to US President Trump's plan and hold the US Government to account for any attempt to breach international law in this regard, including through the imposition of sanctions on individuals or entities responsible for such attempts?

Submitted: 10.2.2025

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(16 April 2025)**

In accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 2735 (2024) ⁽¹⁾, the EU rejects any attempt at demographic or territorial changes in the Gaza Strip and supports unifying the Gaza Strip with the West Bank under the Palestinian Authority, as the EU made clear on the occasion of the 13th EU-Israel Association Council held on 24 February 2025 ⁽²⁾.

This is also in line with the five key principles set by the Commission President in November 2023 on Gaza (Gaza to be an essential part of the future Palestinian State, and no forced displacement of Palestinians) ⁽³⁾. These messages have also been conveyed to partners in the United States.

The EU has been constantly clear in affirming its unwavering commitment to the two-state solution; this is the only solution to the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. The High Representative/Vice-President will continue to spare no effort to revive the political process towards the two-state solution.

It would be for the Council to decide on the imposition of new restrictive measures (sanctions) by unanimity.

⁽¹⁾ [https://docs.un.org/en/s/RES/2735\(2024\)](https://docs.un.org/en/s/RES/2735(2024))

⁽²⁾ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-6511-2025-INIT/en/pdf>

⁽³⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/speech_23_5646