

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000940/25
to the Commission
Ana Miranda Paz (Verts/ALE)
(5 March 2025)**

Subject: Israel's latest travel ban on MEPs belonging to Parliament's Delegation for Relations with Palestine

On 24 February, a meeting of the EU-Israel Association Council took place in Brussels. It is unacceptable for the EU to maintain the EU-Israel Association Agreement while Israel systematically violates Article 2 thereof, which defines the respect for human rights and democratic principles as an essential element of the treaty. Furthermore, two MEPs from Parliament's Delegation for Relations with Palestine (Rima Hassan and Chairwoman Lynn Boylan) have been denied entry into Palestine. As a result of repeated Israeli refusals I too have, over the last 10 years, been effectively banned from travelling to Palestine.

In the light of the above:

1. What will the Commission do to defend the rights of its citizens abroad? How much more humiliation must the EU's representatives and institutions endure before the Commission realises that enough is enough?
2. How many more people need to die in Palestine for the Commission to realise that it needs to review and terminate the EU-Israel Association Agreement?

Submitted: 5.3.2025

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

The EU regrets the decision to refuse entry to Israel to Members of the European Parliament. The decision is deeply disappointing. It is also surprising, given that the Israeli authorities had been informed well in advance of the composition of the delegation and entry had been authorised by the Israeli authorities.

The EU reiterates that respect for all elected Members and the European Parliament is essential for good EU-Israel relations. Members of the European Parliament have a right to exercise their mandate freely.

In the framework of the relations with Israel, the EU considers that political engagement and frank and open dialogue are the best ways to convey EU concerns. For example, the EU-Israel Association Council held on 24 February 2025 was an important opportunity for a frank and open dialogue with the Israeli partners.

Together with the Member States, the High Representative/Vice-President firmly reiterated the EU's positions and concerns regarding the situation in Gaza and the West Bank to the Israeli Foreign Minister ⁽¹⁾.

The Association Agreement with Israel ⁽²⁾ is the legal basis of the ongoing dialogue with the Israeli authorities and it provides mechanisms to discuss issues and advance the EU's point of view. In this framework, the EU will continue to reaffirm its commitment to the applicability of international human rights and humanitarian law in the occupied Palestinian territory.

⁽¹⁾ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-6511-2025-INIT/en/pdf>

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A22000A0621%2801%29>