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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(19.5.2025)

During the EU-Israel Association Council on 24 February 2025 and her mission to the region on 23-24 March 2025, the High Representative/Vice-President held frank exchanges and conveyed clear messages to the Israeli authorities on the situation in Gaza and the future of the Strip. During her visit to Egypt, she met with the Arab-Islamic Ministerial Committee and issued a joint statement¹, in which the parties emphasised their categorical rejection of any displacement or expulsion of the Palestinian people out of their territory, Gaza and the West Bank including East Jerusalem, and warned against the grave repercussions that would result from such actions.

In accordance with international law, and in particular with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2735 (2024)², 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.

This is also in line with the five key conditions for the ‘day after’ set by the President of the Commission in November 2023 on Gaza³ (Gaza to be an essential part of the future Palestinian State which cannot be reduced or amputated in any way, and no forced displacement of Palestinians).

In its relations with Israel, the EU considers that political engagement and frank and open dialogue are the most effective ways to convey EU concerns. The Association Agreement with Israel⁴ 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 international law, including the applicability of international human rights and humanitarian law in the occupied Palestinian territory.

¹ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/joint-statement-high-representative-kaja-kallas-and-arab-islamic-ministerial-committee_en.

² [https://docs.un.org/en/s/RES/2735\(2024\)](https://docs.un.org/en/s/RES/2735(2024)).

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

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A22000A0621%2801%29>.