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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(4.8.2025)

Following the exchange at the Foreign Affairs Council on 20 May 2025, the High Representative/Vice-President announced the review of Israel's compliance with Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association¹. The review was presented at the Foreign Affairs Council on 23 June 2025². The ministers of foreign affairs agreed that the EU's aim is to improve the humanitarian situation.

On this basis, the EU engaged in a frank and principled dialogue leading to Israel's agreement to take significant steps to improve the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip. The outcomes were presented at the Foreign Affairs Council of 15 July, and considering the urgency to implement the agreement, Member States asked to regularly report to the Council on the progress. The EU will continue to closely monitor the implementation of the agreed actions and consider next steps, if necessary, based on developments on the ground.

Regarding sanctions against violent settlers, the Council has so far listed nine individuals and five entities responsible for serious and systematic human rights abuses against Palestinians under the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime (in April and July 2024)³. Among them are violent activists blocking the humanitarian aid to Gaza. Additional listings are under discussion at the Council. Sanctions are taken by Member States by unanimity.

Military cooperation with third countries is a matter for Member States' national authorities. The competent authorities of Member States take the final decision whether to authorise or deny an individual export or transit licence of military equipment.

¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2025/05/20/>.

² <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2025/06/23/>.

³ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/07/15/extremist-israeli-settlers-in-the-occupied-west-bank-and-east-jerusalem-as-well-as-violent-activists-blocking-humanitarian-aid-to-gaza-five-individuals-and-three-entities-sanctioned-under-the-eu-global-human-rights-sanctions-regime/>.