

The European Union¹ has called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and the unconditional release of all hostages, leading to a permanent end to hostilities. It deplores the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza, the unacceptable number of civilian casualties and the levels of starvation. The EU has called on Israel to fully lift its blockade on Gaza, to allow immediate, unimpeded access for and the sustained distribution of humanitarian assistance at scale into and throughout Gaza, and to enable the UN and its agencies, and humanitarian organisations, to work independently and impartially to save lives and reduce suffering. Israel must fully comply with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law.

On 23 June 2025, the High Representative presented to the Council the report on Israel's compliance with Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement². On 26 June 2025, the European Council took note of that report and invited the Council to continue discussions on a follow-up, as appropriate, in July 2025, taking into account the evolution of the situation on the ground. The Foreign Affairs Council subsequently exchanged views on the situation in the Middle East, including on Israel's compliance with Article 2, on the understanding reached between the EU and Israel for the expansion of humanitarian aid into Gaza, and on an inventory of possible follow-up measures³. The Council is currently examining the Commission proposal of 29 July for a Council Decision on the partial suspension of the Agreement between the European Union, of the one part, and Israel, of the other part, on the participation of Israel in the Union programme Horizon Europe, and the Commission proposal of 17 September for a Council Decision on the suspension of certain trade-related provisions of the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the State of Israel, of the other part.

¹ https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/06/26/european-council-conclusions-on-the-middle-east/?utm_source=brevo&utm_campaign=AUTOMATED%20-%20Alert%20-%20Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_id=3318

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

³ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2025/07/15/>