

EN

E-002351/2025

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

The EU took note of reports about the Israeli navy intercepting a British-flagged (Freedom Flotilla Coalition) ship attempting to enter Gaza by sea. The EU was subsequently pleased to note the release of all passengers and their safe return home.

The High Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) presented the review of Israel's compliance with Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement¹ at the Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) of 23 June 2025. It concluded that there are indications that Israel would be in breach of Article 2. On this basis, it was agreed that it was crucial to improve the situation on the ground and to engage in this respect with the Israeli authorities. The European Council also tasked the HR/VP to prepare an inventory of possible follow-up measures for the FAC of 15 July 2025. On 10 July 2025, the HR/VP announced² that an understanding had been reached for the expansion of humanitarian aid into Gaza. At the FAC of 15 July 2025, it was agreed that the EU would closely monitor the implementation of Israel's commitments. There was no consensus among Member States to apply any of the measures listed in the inventory paper.

The EU continues to call for a return to the ceasefire and the unconditional release of all hostages. These steps are needed for a permanent end to hostilities. In June 2025, the EU disbursed the first payments of the multiannual and comprehensive programme for Palestine*'s recovery and resilience to the Palestinian Authority (EUR 150 million) and to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) (EUR 52 million). The second disbursements will take place before the end of 2025.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX%3A22000A0621%2801%29>.

² https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/israelpalestine-statement-high-representativevice-president-kaja-kallas_en.

*This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.