

EN
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Answer given by Mr Micallef
on behalf of the European Commission
(30.7.2025)

The Commission is deeply concerned about the impact of the current situation on access to education and academic continuity for young people in Gaza and in the region.

The Commission does not envisage extraordinary instruments at this stage as students and staff from Palestine are eligible for mobilities under the international dimension of the Erasmus+ programme. The Commission has received several requests for support from students selected under Erasmus+ who cannot exit Gaza. The Commission maintains close contact with EU Delegations in Israel and Palestine* to provide support and, wherever possible, assist students in obtaining permissions to leave Gaza.

It also provides opportunities for universities in Gaza, such as through its international Capacity Building in Higher Education action under the Erasmus+ programme. This initiative primarily focuses on strengthening the capacities of universities.

The Commission will continue to flag to its national agencies implementing the Erasmus+ programme that *force majeure* can be applied to cases where unforeseen situations appeared during the implementation of mobilities.

The Commission remains committed to upholding the right to education and promoting academic resilience and cooperation, even in the most challenging circumstances. We will continue to closely monitor the situation and provide support wherever possible.

* 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.