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E-002434/2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(8.8.2025)

The then High Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) presented the report of the EU Special Representative for Human Rights on the situation in Gaza at the Foreign Affairs Council of 18 November 2024¹. Based on the report and information coming from Gaza, the HR/VP proposed to the Council to suspend the political dialogue with Israel, which falls under the exclusive competence of the Council. A majority of Member States was against the proposal².

The EU deplores the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza, the unacceptable number of civilian casualties and the levels of starvation and has consistently urged Israel to improve³. As a result of frank dialogue between Israel and the EU, Israel agreed in July 2025 to expand humanitarian access to Gaza, including through more crossings open, aid and food trucks entering Gaza, repair of vital infrastructure and protection of aid workers. Implementation of this agreement is vital, and the EU will monitor closely this implementation to ensure that the commitments given are respected.

¹ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/foreign-affairs-council-press-remarks-high-representative-josep-borrell-after-meeting-17_en.

² See footnote 1.

³ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/cjtb3oep/20250626-european-council-conclusions-en.pdf>.