

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002512/25
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Erik Kalliňák (NI)
(23 June 2025)

Subject: Possible suspension of the Association Agreement with Israel

On 17 June 2025, the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Kaja Kallas, made a statement that received wide media coverage, indicating that the EU would review its Association Agreement with Israel due to Israel's human rights violations in the Gaza Strip ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾. There is no doubt that human rights violations by a specific state also constitute a violation of international law.

In this connection:

1. Does the Vice-President/High Representative consider the suspension of the agreement to be a sufficient measure?
2. Does she also plan to submit a proposal for EU sanctions against Israeli officials responsible for these human rights violations? In similar cases, sanctions have been proposed against officials of other states and regimes.
3. What further steps (diplomatic efforts, etc.) does the EU plan to take in the Middle East?

Submitted: 23.6.2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(8 September 2025)

Following the exchange at the Foreign Affairs Council on 20 May 2025, the High Representative/Vice-President announced a review of Israel's compliance with Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement ⁽¹⁾.

The review was presented at the Foreign Affairs Council on 23 June 2025 ⁽²⁾. The Foreign Ministers agreed that the EU's aim is to improve the humanitarian situation.

On this basis, the EU engaged in a dialogue with Israel in view of improving the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip. The outcomes were presented at the Foreign Affairs Council of 15 July 2025 ⁽³⁾. The EU continues to closely monitor the implementation of the agreed actions.

On 29 July 2025, the Commission proposed to partially suspend Israel's participation in Horizon Europe ⁽⁴⁾. This proposal comes as a reaction to the review of Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement and is currently under discussion by Member States.

While working towards improved humanitarian assistance, the EU continues to call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and the unconditional release of all hostages, leading to a permanent end to hostilities ⁽⁵⁾.

The Commission announced in April 2025 a multiannual and comprehensive programme worth up to EUR 1.6 billion, to foster Palestinian recovery and resilience.

The programme includes financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority, support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), projects in various socioeconomic sectors as well as support to the private sector. As part of the programme, the EU has already disbursed EUR 172 million to the Palestinian Authority and EUR 82 million to UNRWA.

The European Council has so far listed nine individuals, and five entities linked to violent extremism in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, as well as the blocking of humanitarian aid into Gaza ⁽⁶⁾.

¹ <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/eu-will-review-trade-deal-with-israel-kallas-says-2025-05-20/>

² <https://epthinktank.eu/2025/06/12/review-of-the-eu-israel-association-agreement/>

⁽¹⁾ https://eeas.europa.eu/archives/delegations/israel/documents/eu_israel/asso_agree_en.pdf.

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

⁽³⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2025/07/15/#:~:text=The%20message%20is%20very%20clear,is%20wholly%20committed%20to%20Ukraine.&text=The%20Council%20then%20discussed%20military,a%20full%20and%20unconditional%20ceasefire>.

⁽⁴⁾ https://north-africa-middle-east-gulf.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-proposes-partial-suspension-israels-association-horizon-europe-2025-07-29_en.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/cjtb3oep/20250626-european-council-conclusions-en.pdf>.

⁽⁶⁾ <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/>.