

EN

E-002628/2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(18.9.2025)

The EU's action on the international scene is guided, *inter alia*, by the respect of the principles of international law, human rights and the preservation of peace and strengthening international security, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter (Article 3(5) of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 21 TEU).

The EU Special Representative (EUSR) for Human Rights prepared an assessment of the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory regarding Israel's respect of International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law for the meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) of 22 July 2024, based on credible third party sources. Subsequently, the report was updated for the 18 November 2024 FAC meeting, when it was proposed to the FAC to suspend the political dialogue with Israel by invoking Article 2 (human rights clause) of the EU-Israel Association Agreement¹. There was no unanimity among Member States to adopt such a decision.

At the 27 May 2025 FAC meeting, 17 Member States supported the proposal to prepare a review of Israel's compliance with Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement. The High Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) launched the review and tasked the office of the EUSR for Human Rights to prepare it. This document, which concluded that there were indications that Israel would be in breach of its human rights obligations under Article 2 was presented by the HR/VP at the 23 June 2025 FAC meeting. Following this, the EU engaged in dialogue with Israel, with the objective to achieve significant changes in the humanitarian situation on the ground. At the 15 July 2025 FAC meeting, Ministers discussed an inventory of different measures that could be taken in relation to the Article 2 review. On 29 July 2025, the Commission proposed to partially suspend Israel's participation in Horizon Europe².

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

² https://north-africa-middle-east-gulf.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-proposes-partial-suspension-israels-association-horizon-europe-2025-07-29_en.