

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002890/25
to the Commission
João Oliveira (The Left)
(15 July 2025)**

Subject: Starvation of the Palestinian people: a form of Israeli aggression

Israel's brutal aggression against the Palestinian population in the Gaza Strip continues with impunity. In addition to indiscriminate military attacks, which have claimed almost 190 000 victims — dead, wounded and missing — among the Palestinian population, Israel, after violating the ceasefire in March, has tightened its cruel and inhumane blockade of the Palestinian population in the Strip.

The entire Palestinian population of that area is at Phase 3 of the Food and Agriculture Organisation's Integrated Food Security Phase Classification: 'acute food and livelihood crisis', half at Phase 4: 'humanitarian emergency' and almost a quarter of the population, 470 000 people, at Phase 5, the most severe: 'famine/humanitarian catastrophe'.

This state of affairs affects, in particular, hundreds of thousands of children, including newborns and infants, who face acute or severe malnutrition.

Can the Commission therefore say what measures it will take to:

1. Put pressure on Israel to cease its aggression and violations of international law?
2. Ensure that humanitarian aid is provided by UNRWA, the Red Crescent and other UN agencies and organisations?
3. Hold Israel accountable for using starvation as a form of aggression, including before the International Court of Justice?

Submitted: 15.7.2025

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(28 November 2025)**

The EU is deeply concerned by the catastrophic humanitarian situation and the unbearable level of suffering in Gaza and has been consistent in its response to improve the situation since the start of the conflict, using the variety of the EU's toolbox ⁽¹⁾.

The EU has been consistently urging Israel to improve the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza. The High Representative/Vice-President launched — with the support of a majority of Member States — the review on Israel's compliance with Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement ⁽²⁾. This review concluded that there are indications that Israel would be in breach of Article 2. Following the review, the Commission has put on hold its bilateral support to Israel, with the exception of support to civil society and Yad Vashem.

The EU welcomed the agreement on the first phase of the Comprehensive Plan to end the Gaza Conflict put forward by the President of United States to secure an immediate ceasefire, humanitarian assistance and the release of all hostages. The EU will continue to support the rapid, safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian aid, working closely with the United Nations (UN) agencies and international non-governmental organisations, and in accordance with international law.

The EU will continue to remind Israel of its responsibilities to uphold its commitments. It is essential that efforts to restore humanitarian aid to Gaza be carried out in full respect of international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles.

The EU supports the International Court of Justice ⁽³⁾, the principal judicial organ of the UN and considers it as of key importance in upholding international criminal justice and the fight against impunity.

⁽¹⁾ This includes over EUR 550 million in humanitarian assistance since 2023 — making the EU the first humanitarian donor —, medical evacuations, and joint civil protection missions.

⁽²⁾ https://eeas.europa.eu/archives/delegations/israel/documents/eu_israel/asso_agree_en.pdf.

⁽³⁾ <https://www.icj-cij.org/node/204091>.