(English version)

Question for written answer E-002977/25
to the Commission
Moritz Körner (Renew)
(17 July 2025)

Subject: Israel

Some are falsely accusing Israel of genocide, apartheid or colonisation. The Commission is asked to answer the following question with yes or no, before elaborating on its reply:

Does the Commission agree that Israel is not committing genocide, that it is not an apartheid system and that it is not engaging in colonisation?

Submitted: 17.7.2025

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

The EU has repeatedly called ([1]) on Israel to fully comply with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, in all circumstances.

It has recalled the need to fully implement the provisional measures orders rendered by the International Court of Justice on 26 January, 28 March, and 24 May 2024 ([2]).

Any actions by Israel must ensure the protection of civilians and access to humanitarian aid ([3]). On 26 June 2025, the EU called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and the unconditional release of all hostages, leading to a permanent end to hostilities ([4]).

The EU deplores the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza, the unacceptable number of civilian casualties and the levels of starvation. Israel must fully comply with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law.

The EU reiterates its strong opposition to Israel's settlement policy and activities, including in and around East Jerusalem. The EU will not recognise changes to the 1967 lines, unless agreed by the parties.

The EU recalls that annexation is illegal under international law. The EU calls on Israel to halt continued settlement expansion and related activities, including state land declarations, evictions, demolitions, confiscation and forced transfers of Palestinians, which have reached record levels in the past year.

The EU firmly believes that a two-state solution is the only sustainable way to achieve long-term stability and peace in the Middle East. Unfortunately, the developments on the ground risk jeopardising a political horizon.

The Commission is not mandated to define what constitutes genocide or apartheid and will respect rulings by the multilateral system based on international law and the universality of human rights.

([1]) https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-new-york/eu-statement-%E2%80%93-un-general-assembly-1st-committee-regional-disarmament-and-security-1_en?s=63; https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/2pebccz2/20241017-euco-conclusions-en.pdf; https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/09/26/statement-by-the-high-representative-on-behalf-of-the-eu-on-the-military-escalation-between-israel-and-hezbollah/.

([2]) https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240126-ord-01-00-en.pdf; https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240328-ord-01-00-en.pdf; https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240524-ord-01-00-en.pdf.

([3]) Geneva Convention (IV), Geneva, 12 August 1949.

([4]) https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/cjtb3oep/20250626-european-council-conclusions-en.pdf.