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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(2.10.2025)

Following the review of Israel's obligations under Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement¹, discussed at the June 2025 meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council, the EU engaged in a dialogue with Israel with the objective to improve the humanitarian situation on the ground.

During the negotiations, Israel committed to taking significant steps to improve access for large-scale humanitarian aid. These commitments include increasing the flow of aid trucks; opening crossings; reopening Jordanian and Egyptian aid routes; allowing sufficient access of fuel to sustain essential services and aid deliveries; allowing the entry of humanitarian personnel into Gaza, including the United Nations 2720 monitors; improving the security situation and ensuring a safe operational environment; and repairing key infrastructures, including water desalination plants and water pipes.

Clear benchmarks were set to help the EU monitor implementation of what was agreed. The European External Action Service and the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations are reporting to Member States on a weekly basis on the progress in the implementation of the humanitarian understanding.

In light of the deterioration of the situation on the ground, including the declaration of famine by the Integrated Food Security Phased Classification in Gaza Governorate², in the State of the EU speech the President of the Commission³ announced that the Commission will propose a package of measures, including an enhanced sanctions package targeting violent settlers, extremist Israeli ministers, and members of Hamas; and a partial suspension of certain trade-related measures under the Association Agreement. These proposals build on the work led by the High Representative/Vice-President and require Member States' support by unanimity and by qualified majority respectively – to be adopted. The Commission will also pause elements of the bilateral financial support, without adversely affecting work with civil society or Yad Vashem.

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

² <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-website/countries-in-focus-archive/issue-134/en/>.

³ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/state-union/state-union-2025_en.