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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(5.9.2025)

The EU believes that the political dialogue under the EU-Israel Association Agreement¹ is an important channel of communication to deliver messages including criticism towards Israel's actions. The Agreement can only be suspended by the unanimous decision of the Council of the EU. There is currently no consensus among Member States on the full suspension of the Agreement.

At the Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) in May 2025, the High Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) announced a review of Israel's compliance with Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement. The review, which concluded that there are indications that Israel would be in breach of Article 2, was presented at the FAC on 23 June 2025².

The EU engaged in a frank and principled dialogue, which led to Israel's agreement to take significant steps to improve the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip. At the July 2025 FAC, the HR/VP announced the humanitarian understanding with Israel and informed Member States that the EU will continue to closely monitor the implementation of the agreed actions and report to Member States. The EU will also consider next steps, if necessary, based on developments on the ground. On 29 July 2025, the Commission proposed to partially suspend Israel's participation in Horizon Europe³. The suspension, a reaction to the review under Article 2 of the Association Agreement, specifically concerns the participation of entities established in Israel in activities funded under the Accelerator of the European Innovation Council⁴.

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 hostilities⁵.

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://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_1921.

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>.