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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(9.9.2025)

Following the exchange at the Foreign Affairs Council meeting on 20 May 2025, the High Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) announced a review of Israel's compliance with Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement¹. The review was presented at the Foreign Affairs Council on 23 June 2025². The foreign ministers agreed that the EU's aim is to improve the humanitarian situation.

On this basis, the HR/VP engaged in a frank dialogue which led to a 'humanitarian understanding' with Israel, which committed itself to take significant steps to improve the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip. The details of these diplomatic negotiations are sensitive information and include clear benchmarks against which the EU can measure implementation.

The EU will continue to closely monitor the implementation of the agreed actions and consider next steps, if necessary, based on developments on the ground. The HR/VP regularly reports to Member States on the progress of the implementation. There has been some progress in relation to some of the agreed benchmarks, but it is still not sufficient. Therefore, Israel needs to do more.

On 29 July 2025, the Commission proposed to partially suspend Israel's participation in Horizon Europe. The suspension, which comes as a reaction to the review under Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement, specifically concerns the participation of entities established in Israel in activities funded under the Accelerator of the European Innovation Council³. For the Commission's proposal to be adopted, it must receive the support of a qualified majority in the Council of the European Union.

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