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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(16.9.2025)

The High Representative/Vice President (HR/VP) has been clear that the humanitarian situation in Gaza is unbearable, and Israel must allow immediate and unimpeded large-scale access to humanitarian aid. The EU has consistently conveyed messages urging Israel to improve the humanitarian situation in Gaza. The HR/VP has maintained her regular engagement with her Israeli counterpart.

At the Foreign Affairs Council meeting in May 2025, the HR/VP decided to conduct a review of Israel's compliance with Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement¹, with the support of a majority of Member States. The review was presented at the Foreign Affairs Council on 23 June 2025² and concluded that there are indications that Israel would be in breach of Article 2. On this basis, the EU engaged in a frank dialogue, which led to Israel's agreement to take significant steps to improve the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip. On 29 July 2025, the Commission proposed a Council Decision³ to partially suspend Israel's participation in Horizon Europe⁴. The suspension specifically concerns the participation of entities established in Israel in activities funded under the Accelerator of the European Innovation Council. This proposal can be adopted in the Council with a qualified majority.

While working towards improving the humanitarian situation, 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://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en.

⁵ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/cjtb3oep/20250626-european-council-conclusions-en.pdf>.