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

The EU's priorities remain addressing the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza and ensure humanitarian aid at scale for the population in need, an immediate ceasefire and the release of all remaining hostages, reiterated by the High Representative/Vice President repeatedly at the informal Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) that took place on 11 August 2025¹. The EU remains deeply alarmed by the catastrophic situation in Gaza with famine now declared by the Integrated Food Security Phased Classification in Gaza Governorate and projected to extend to other governorates².

Following the review of Israel's obligations under Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement³, discussed at the June 2025 meeting of the FAC, the EU engaged in a frank dialogue with Israel, which committed to take significant steps to improve access for large scale humanitarian aid⁴.

The understanding reached, following face-to-face negotiations, includes clear benchmarks allowing the EU to monitor closely the implementation. The EU continues to urge Israel to uphold the commitments. While some improvements can be seen, the humanitarian situation remains dire. Security and safety, including for humanitarian staff, remain a key challenge. It is essential that efforts to restore large-scale humanitarian aid to Gaza are carried out in full respect of International Humanitarian Law and humanitarian principles. The EU will determine further action in light of developments on the ground.

The EU continues to deploy all available humanitarian tools to alleviate conditions for civilians. Since October 2023, the EU has allocated over EUR 500 million in humanitarian assistance for Palestine, has been operating a Humanitarian Air Bridge, and has supported the medical evacuation of patients and their family members through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism.

¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2025/08/11/>.

² https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_25_1981.

³ https://eeas.europa.eu/archives/delegations/israel/documents/eu_israel/asso_agree_en.pdf.

⁴ Like the increase aid trucks, open crossings; reopen Jordanian and Egyptian aid routes; allow sufficient access of fuel to sustain essential services and aid deliveries; allow the entry of humanitarian personnel into Gaza, including 2720 monitors; improve the security situation and ensure a safe operational environment, and repair key infrastructure.