

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003274/25
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos (NI)
(22 August 2025)

Subject: Unacceptable persecution and unhistorical accusations against the Greek people and the people of Europe expressing their solidarity with the Palestinian people

The intensifying genocide in Gaza by the occupying state of Israel is causing great reactions among the Greek people.

Solidarity movements with the Palestinian people are gaining momentum in Syros, Rhodes and elsewhere, as attempts are being made by both the New Democracy Government and the Israeli embassy to exploit the presence of a cruise ship in ports around the country transporting Israelis calling themselves tourists, who represent various mechanisms, with the aim of promoting a propaganda campaign in favour of Israel.

What is the position of the EU High Representative/Vice-President:

1. on the fact that popular reactions to the genocide of the Palestinian people are characterised by several EU Member States as ‘anti-Semitism’ and ‘racism’, which is unacceptable, unfounded and unsubstantiated, at a time when brutal repression and persecution are being carried out?
2. on the fact that Israel, which the EU recognises as a ‘strategic partner’, has on at least two occasions kidnapped from international waters the crews of boats carrying humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza who are facing huge shortages of food, health supplies and medicines, at the hands of Israel, but also of the US, NATO and the EU?
3. on the popular demand for the immediate recognition of a Palestinian state on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, as well as for the immediate cancellation of the EU-Israel Association Agreement, for an end to the funding of Israeli military and other companies through EU programmes, such as ‘HorizonEU’, and for a halt to the sale of any military equipment or dual-use items by EU Member States to Israel?

Submitted: 22.8.2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(25 November 2025)

Considering the catastrophic humanitarian situation, the High Representative/ Vice-President (HR/VP) decided, with the support of a majority of Member States (MS), to conduct a review of Israel’s compliance with Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement ⁽¹⁾. The review concluded that there are indications that Israel would be in violation of Article 2.

Regarding Horizon Europe, the Commission’s proposal for a Council decision on partial suspension of the association agreement with Israel specifically concerns the participation of legal entities established in Israel from being eligible to participate in calls for grant and investment support funded under the Accelerator of the European Innovation Council (EIC) ⁽²⁾. The proposal is currently under discussion in the Council.

The HR/VP led the efforts to reach a humanitarian understanding with Israel, where Israel committed to improving the humanitarian situation in Gaza, based on concrete benchmarks.

The EU will continue to closely monitor the implementation of the agreed actions and now that a ceasefire is in place will push for humanitarian aid to enter Gaza in much higher levels.

Next steps on the proposals announced in the State of the Union speech by the Commission President will be discussed with Member States.

The EU respects the humanitarian commitment of those on board of these humanitarian ships. Israel must fully comply with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law.

In practical terms, the EU discourages flotillas as a means for aid delivery. Flotillas risk the safety of their participants and carry the potential for escalation. The EU’s focus will always be on delivering aid through proven and effective structures, with the EU’s partner organisations on the ground.

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

⁽²⁾ This would imply that legal entities established in Israel would no longer be eligible to participate in calls for grant and investment support under the Horizon Europe EIC Accelerator.

The EU reiterates its unwavering commitment to lasting and sustainable peace in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, on the basis of the two-state solution, with the State of Israel and an independent, democratic, contiguous, sovereign and viable state of Palestine living side-by-side in peace, security and mutual recognition.
