

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003545/25
to the Commission
João Oliveira (The Left)
(15 September 2025)

Subject: Possible humanitarian evacuations from the Gaza Strip and activation of the Temporary Protection Directive

For more than 689 days now 2 million people have faced death, suffering, deprivation, destruction, unhealthy and undignified living conditions, insecurity, loss, physical and emotional pain and exhaustion in Israel's campaign of brutality in the Gaza Strip, which continues with impunity. Indiscriminate Israeli military attacks have caused more than 218 000 deaths, injuries and disappearances among the Palestinian population.

The situation on the ground is worsening by the day, particularly as a result of the inhumane and cruel blockade that Israel tightened after violating the ceasefire in March, which is starving Palestinians to death.

Several informal groups in various countries are in direct contact with hundreds of families in the Gaza Strip who are witnessing the horror into which their lives have been plunged by Israel's genocidal actions.

Many have voluntarily expressed their willingness to leave the territory given the desperate state of affairs.

It is common knowledge that countries such as France, Italy, Spain, Albania and Romania have evacuated hundreds of people, either for health and educational purposes or strictly humanitarian reasons.

Can the Commission therefore say:

1. Whether it has data on the countries that have evacuated Palestinians from the Gaza Strip and the numbers involved?
2. Whether it is considering invoking the Temporary Protection Directive to facilitate these evacuations?

Submitted: 15.9.2025

Answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission
(5 December 2025)

Following the terrorist attacks of October 2023 and the ensuing war in Gaza, Israel restricted movement of people and goods. Citizens of Gaza face limitations to exit from the Strip, with any movement outside having to be vetted and approved by Israel.

The EU has sought to provide humanitarian assistance to alleviate the catastrophe in Gaza. The EU emergency humanitarian aid to Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem amounts to EUR 220 million in 2025 and to over EUR 550 million since 2023. The Commission is ready to assist as the ceasefire agreement is implemented and is monitoring developments.

Under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), the EU is supporting Member and Participating States organising medical evacuations for Palestinian patients and companions.

As of 11 November 2025, 377 patients and 1 004 companions were medically evacuated via the UCPM to health facilities in 11 Member States and three Participating States.

Some UCPM Member and Participating States may organise evacuations of Palestinians to countries outside the UCPM ⁽¹⁾.

¹ As these decisions are within the jurisdiction and prerogative of the individual Member States, the Commission does not have data on the number of such evacuations.

Council Directive 2001/55/EC ⁽²⁾ contains minimum standards for temporary protection in case of a mass influx of displaced persons from third countries, unable to return to their country of origin, and to promote a balance of effort between Member States in receiving and bearing the consequences of receiving such persons, in particular, if the asylum system isn't able to process this influx without adverse effects.

This directive is only applicable if triggered by a Council Decision adopted by a qualified majority on a proposal from the Commission, in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons into the EU.

The Commission does not consider that the conditions to trigger its application are currently met in relation to migratory movements from Gaza.

2 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32001L0055>.