

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003588/25
to the Commission
Lukas Mandl (PPE)
(17 September 2025)**

Subject: 2025 State of the Union address and sanctions against the State of Israel

The President of the Commission announced sanctions against the State of Israel in her State of the Union (SOTEU) address in September 2025. They will apparently even affect the EU-Israel Association Agreement. At the following meeting of the College of Commissioners, measures against the State of Israel were then on the agenda.

Countries that once posed an existential threat to Israel now have ties to the country through the Abraham Accords. Seeing formerly hostile states cooperate in this manner recalls the beginnings of the European integration process — it is how peace will be achieved. Israel is fighting back against the terror that seeks to destroy the only Jewish state on the planet and that also threatens us in Europe and the entire Western world. Hamas is holding hostages, and shows no signs of surrender.

1. How can sanctions against Israel contribute to peace in the current situation?
2. In hindsight, have the change of direction and alignment of the Commission President — who said in her speech that she regretted that the EU is not united, in particular on these issues — helped de-escalate the situation or just made it worse and deepened the rift?

Submitted: 17.9.2025

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

Following the State of the Union 2025 ⁽¹⁾ address and to respond to the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza, the Commission presented a package of measures to the Council on 17 September 2025.

It includes the proposal to suspend certain trade-related provisions of the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement between the EU and Israel ⁽²⁾, a reinforced sanction package ⁽³⁾, including further sanctions against Hamas, as well as against extremist ministers of the Israeli government and violent settlers.

In parallel, the Commission has taken the necessary steps to put on hold the bilateral support to Israel, without affecting the work with Israeli civil society or to fight antisemitism and foster Jewish life (through the support to Yad Vashem ⁽⁴⁾).

In October 2025, the European Council ⁽⁵⁾ welcomed the agreement reached on the initial phase of the Comprehensive Plan to end the Gaza Conflict, as well as the release of all remaining hostages and called on all parties to fully implement the agreement without delay.

The EU will support the rapid, safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian aid in coordination with international partners, notably the United Nations and its agencies, and in accordance with international law.

The EU stands ready to contribute to Gaza's stabilisation, recovery, and reconstruction, including the organisation of a Palestine Donor Conference and the full use of the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy missions.

The EU is firmly committed to a lasting and sustainable peace based on the two-state solution. The EU is ready to contribute to all efforts towards this solution and calls on all parties to refrain from actions that undermine its viability. It will continue to work with regional and international partners to that end, including through the Global Alliance.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/state-union/state-union-2025_en.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2000:147:FULL>.

⁽³⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_2112.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://www.yadvashem.org/>.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-position-situation-middle-east/>.