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E-004481/2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(18.3.2026)

The EU has not been made aware through official channels of the allegations by the Israeli authorities linking Hamas with the Global Sumud Flotilla. Any eventual corroboration of the documents, potential disciplinary action against Members of the European Parliament (EP) is a matter for the EP in accordance with its ethics rules. In line with the staff regulations¹, EU civil servants are bound by a strict code of conduct and ethical standards designed to ensure independence, integrity, and impartiality in conducting EU foreign policy.

The EU's position regarding Hamas is very clear and consistent. The Hamas military wing was listed by the EU under its counterterrorism sanctions regime on 27 December 2001, while Hamas in its entirety has been on the EU terrorist list since 12 September 2003. Following the brutal and indiscriminate terrorist attack against Israel on 7 October 2023, the EU established a new and dedicated sanctions regime against Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad on 19 January 2024². There are currently 11 individuals and three entities subject to restrictive measures under that framework. The EU has not listed the 'Popular Conference for Palestinians Abroad.'

As regards flotillas, the EU respects the intention of those on board the flotilla ships to draw attention to the humanitarian plight of the population of Gaza. In the EU, everyone has the right to exercise activism and freedom of assembly, this is a core pillar of EU values.

The freedom of navigation under international law must also be upheld. At the same time, the EU discourages flotillas. They risk the safety of their participants and carry the potential for escalation. The authorities responsible for ensuring consular protection are the states to which the citizens belong.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A01962R0031-20260101&qid=1771326223355>.

² <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/sanctions-against-terrorism/>.