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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(21.1.2026)

Since the onset of the Israel/Hamas conflict, the EU recognised Israel's right to defend itself, but consistently urged Israel to do so in line with international law, international human rights law and international humanitarian law. The EU has also clearly emphasised its expectation that Israel complies with rulings of international courts, including the order of the International Court of Justice of 26 January 2024¹. This order neither addresses nor sets out any obligations for third states and organisations.

Further to the findings of the review launched by the High Representative/Vice-President in May 2025 on Israel's compliance with its human rights obligations, which are an essential element of the EU-Israel Association Agreement² by virtue of its Article 2, and in response to the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza, the President of the Commission announced in her State of the Union 2025 address³ in September 2025 a package of measures designated to exercise pressure on Israel. Those proposals are currently discussed in the Council.

Regarding the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD)⁴, Member States have until July 2029 to ensure its transposition into national law and to designate their respective supervisory authorities⁵. The Commission will issue guidelines on the application of the CSDDD, and it will set up the European Network of Supervisory Authorities to coordinate their enforcement efforts.

¹ <https://www.icj-cij.org/node/203447>.

² https://eeas.europa.eu/archives/delegations/israel/documents/eu_israel/asso_agree_en.pdf.

³ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/state-union/state-union-2025_en.

⁴ Directive (EU) 2024/1760 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 on corporate sustainability due diligence and amending Directive (EU) 2019/1937 and Regulation (EU) 2023/2859.

⁵ Following the preliminary political agreement reflected in the position of the European Parliament adopted at first reading on 16 December 2025 with a view to the adoption of Directive (EU) 2025/... of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directives 2006/43/EC, 2013/34/EU, (EU) 2022/2464 and (EU) 2024/1760 as regards certain corporate sustainability reporting and due diligence requirements.