

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001225/26
to the Commission**

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(24 March 2026)

Subject: Israel's use of chemical weapons in Lebanon and Syria

Between late January and early February 2026, Israeli aircraft sprayed chemical substances on farmland in southern Lebanon ⁽¹⁾ and Syria ⁽²⁾, destroying dozens of hectares. According to the Lebanese authorities, the substances that were used contained extremely high concentrations of glyphosate.

At the beginning of March, Human Rights Watch also documented ⁽³⁾ the use of white phosphorous in residential areas of Lebanon. The UN has called for an international inquiry ⁽⁴⁾ and Lebanon announced that it would be filing a complaint to the UN ⁽⁵⁾.

This 'scorched-earth' policy targeting resources indispensable to the survival of the local population appears to be a clear breach of international humanitarian law and an attack on state sovereignty, which runs counter to the principles of the UN Charter.

1. These acts have been documented by independent organisations (Human Rights Watch ⁽⁶⁾, Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor ⁽⁷⁾ and Green Southerners ⁽⁸⁾) and local authorities ⁽⁹⁾. Does the Commission take the view that they constitute a clear breach of international humanitarian law?
2. Will this information be instrumental in the review of the human rights clause, with a view to suspending the EU-Israel Association Agreement?
3. What specific action does the Commission plan to take in response to these violations to ensure that people and the environment are protected?

Submitted: 24.3.2026

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(22 May 2026)

The EU is a strong supporter of international law, including International Humanitarian Law, and the integrity of the Chemical Weapons Convention ⁽¹⁾.

The use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere, at any time and under any circumstances is a violation of international law. The EU recalls that the use of herbicides is regulated by the UN Environmental Modification Convention from 1976 which prohibits military or any hostile use of environmental modification techniques.

The EU will continue to reaffirm its commitment to the applicability of international human rights and humanitarian law in the occupied Palestinian territory, Lebanon and Syria.

The High Representative/Vice-President conducted, with the support of a majority of Member States, a review of Israel's compliance with its obligations under Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement ⁽²⁾.

The conclusion of the review was that there are indications that Israel would be in breach of its obligations. Following the review, the Commission's President announced a set of proposed measures for the EU to address the catastrophic situation in Gaza.

It includes a reinforced package of sanctions, and a partial suspension of the Association Agreement on certain trade-related matters. Discussions continue in the Council on those measures.

¹ https://www.lemonde.fr/en/international/article/2026/02/09/lebanon-condemns-israeli-glyphosate-attack-in-country-s-south_6750310_4.html

² <https://www.france24.com/fr/moyen-orient/20260213-syrie-champs-asperg%C3%A9s-herbicides-par-isra%C3%ABl-sud-liban-cisjordanie>

³ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/03/09/lebanon-israel-unlawfully-using-white-phosphorus>

⁴ <https://news.un.org/fr/story/2026/02/1158361>

⁵ <https://www.lorientlejour.com/article/1493801/le-liban-denonce-la-pulverisation-de-glyphosate-par-israel-et-prepare-une-plainte-a-lonu.html>

⁶ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/03/09/lebanon-israel-unlawfully-using-white-phosphorus>

⁷ <https://euromedmonitor.org/en/article/6973/Israel%E2%80%99s-chemical-spraying-of-farmland-in-Lebanon-and-Syria-amounts-to-war-crime--targets-civilian-survival>

⁸ <https://www.lorientlejour.com/article/1493727/les-matieres-toxiques-pulverisees-par-israel-accelerent-la-degradation-environnementale-denonce-une-ong.html>

⁹ <https://x.com/MoaLebanon/status/2019100373794058292>

⁽¹⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/disarmament-non-proliferation-and-arms-export-control-0_en.

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

The EU has suspended its bilateral cooperation with Israel, without impacting the support to civil society and Yad Vashem — the Holocaust Remembrance Centre.

The EU urges all external actors, without exception, to fully respect Syria's and Lebanon's unity, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. The EU further condemns any attempts to undermine Syria's stability and prospects for a peaceful and inclusive transition.
