

(English version)

Question for written answer E-001302/26
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Per Clausen (The Left)
(27 March 2026)

Subject: Non-paper outlining legal issues related to the charter of the Board of Peace and other information

The EU's decision to participate as an observer in Donald Trump's so-called Board of Peace was not only highly controversial, but it also runs counter to the policies of several EU Member States and seems to have taken place without a mandate and without sufficient consultation or briefing of the European Parliament. As a result, many questions are left unanswered.

Since this controversial case clearly necessitates more scrutiny, clarity and discussion, is the Commission going to make public:

1. A copy of its non-paper of 19 January 2026 outlining legal issues related to the charter of the Board of Peace, as well as any other analysis, assessment or similarly produced material about the Board of Peace and the EU's participation in it?
2. A copy of the mandate on which its official participation was based or, in case it does not exist, a clear indication of with whom the participation was discussed prior to the event?
3. Can the Commission furthermore kindly provide an explanation outlining the complete legal basis for the EU's participation as an observer in the Board of Peace, including information about any financial pledges or provisions relating to it?

Submitted: 27.3.2026

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

The European External Action Service (EEAS) has made a legal assessment on the possibility to grant public access to the non-paper of 19 January 2026 in the context of a request submitted under Regulation 1049/2001 ⁽¹⁾.

This showed that the document cannot be disclosed to the public as it constitutes legal advice (excluded from public disclosure by Article 4(2) second indent) and because its disclosure would undermine the EU international relations (Article 4(1)(a) third indent).

At the inauguration ceremony of the Board of Peace meeting on 25 February 2026, in Washington DC, EU Commissioner for the Mediterranean participated as an observer.

The Commissioner for the Mediterranean participated on behalf of the Commission in the meeting. It is within the remit of the Commission to accept invitations of this kind as a matter of international courtesy.

The Commissioner attended alongside representatives of at least half of EU Member States, as well as other European partners and regional actors.

The Commissioner's for the Mediterranean participation as an observer was to help ensure coordination and complementarity between the EU and broader international efforts. It is of paramount importance to be at the table and engage with all relevant regional and international actors.

The EU's position on the Board of Peace has been very clear. There are serious doubts about a number of elements in the charter of the Board of Peace related to its scope, its governance and its compatibility with the UN Charter.

The EU has signalled to the US that it is ready to work together on the implementation of the comprehensive Peace Plan for Gaza, with a Board of Peace carrying out its mission as a transitional administration, in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 2803 ⁽²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32001R1049>.

⁽²⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-position-situation-middle-east/>.