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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(27.5.2026)

The EU has a clear and coherent position on the imperative for all States to fully respect international law and the principles of the UN Charter, including the sovereignty and territorial integrity of third countries. The EU is equally steadfast in its principled opposition to the death penalty in all cases and all circumstances.

With reference to Israeli military actions in Lebanon as well as to the new death penalty law, the EU position has been clearly reflected for example in the latest European Council Conclusions of 19 March 2026¹ and in the statement issued on 31 March by the High Representative/Vice-President on behalf of the EU².

To ensure no double standards, the EU applies the same principles globally, including through its steadfast support for the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice, which are indispensable pillars of the global justice system. The fight against impunity and pursuit of justice for international crimes and violations of international law are non-negotiable cornerstones of EU foreign policy.

In light of the catastrophic situation in Gaza and the West Bank, the EU's 2025 review – with support of a majority of Member States - found indications that Israel had breached its Article 2 obligations under the EU-Israel Association Agreement. The Commission has since proposed a reinforced sanctions package and partial suspension of trade-related provisions, while halting bilateral support (excluding civil society and Yad Vashem), as announced in the Commission's President 2025 State of the Union address³. Further measures remain under Council discussion.

¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/1whk3itd/en-20260319-european-council-conclusions.pdf>.

² <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2026/03/31/israel-statement-by-the-high-representative-on-behalf-of-the-european-union-on-the-approval-of-the-death-penalty-bill-by-the-israeli-parliament/>.

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