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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(3.6.2026)

The EU has continuously called upon Israel to respect Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity¹. The proposal to establish a buffer zone in southern Lebanon raises serious legal, political and humanitarian concerns. It also risks fuelling more sectarian tensions and displacements and to exacerbate the current crisis in Lebanon. The EU also strongly condemns Hezbollah's attacks against Israel. Hezbollah poses an existential threat to Lebanon and its disarmament remains a priority. The EU urges Israel to stop military operations in the country which are having a dramatic humanitarian and socioeconomic impact. The EU calls on all parties to respect the recently agreed temporary ceasefire, fully supports the continuation of bilateral dialogue between Israel and Lebanon and encourages negotiations as a path toward lasting stability and de-escalation in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1701.

In 2025, in light of the catastrophic situation in Gaza, 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 Agreement². 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, including a reinforced package of sanctions and the suspension of certain trade-related provisions of the EU-Israel Association Agreement. The Commission has also put on hold its bilateral support to Israel, with the exception of support to civil society and Yad Vashem. Discussions continue in the Council on other measures which require approval of Member States.

¹https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/lebanon-statement-high-representative-recent-developments_en.

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