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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(5.6.2026)

In relation to the Israeli interception of the flotilla on 30 April 2026, the EU has made clear that no attacks or any use of force against the flotilla, including drone strikes or seizures, are acceptable. The EU reiterates its call on Israel to respect international law, including international humanitarian law and international maritime law. The freedom of navigation under international law must be upheld.

What the activists wish to achieve is raising awareness about the catastrophic situation in Gaza and delivering much needed aid to a people in desperate need. However, while the EU respects the humanitarian commitment of those aboard the flotilla and recognise the challenges in delivering aid to Gaza, the EU discourages flotillas as a form of aid delivery, as they risk the safety of their participants. The EU, including through outreach by the High Representative/Vice President, remains in regular contact with Member States and with Israel regarding the humanitarian situation in Gaza and reiterates our consistent call for rapid and unimpeded delivery of aid.

In light of the catastrophic situation in Gaza and following a review of Israel's obligations under Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement¹ which the High Representative/Vice President conducted with the support of a majority of Member States, the President of the Commission proposed a package of measures during her State of the Union address in September 2025. Discussions continue in the Council on the package of measures presented by the Commission following the review. Any decision to suspend the Association Agreement requires unanimity in the Council, meaning the agreement of all 27 Member States.

¹ https://eeas.europa.eu/archives/delegations/israel/documents/eu_israel/asso_agree_en.pdf.