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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(1.7.2026)

The EU has followed the situation around the Global Sumud flotilla very closely. The High Representative/Vice-President was in direct contact with Foreign Affairs Minister of Israel regarding the detention of flotilla members and urged him to ensure their safety and dignity in detention. The EU Delegation to Israel has also been following closely their situation on the ground and has been in contact with Member States who have the primary responsibility for consular issues. In response to increasing calls from Member States to sanction extremist Ministers of the Israeli government, discussions are ongoing in the Council.

Since October 2023, the EU provided over EUR 674 million in humanitarian assistance for Palestine, working with trusted and principled partners to ensure aid reaches those most in need. The EU respects the intentions of activists to raise awareness about the catastrophic situation in Gaza and shares the same goals: the immediate and essential delivery of humanitarian aid, end of suffering in Gaza, and respect for international humanitarian law. However, the EU encourages the delivery of humanitarian assistance through traditional means, which are more effective and safer. The EU engaged repeatedly with Israeli counterparts to convey the EU's positions and request to ensure immediate, unimpeded and sustained aid delivery at scale into and throughout Gaza and reopen all border crossings.

Any decision to suspend the EU-Israel Association Agreement requires unanimity in the Council.