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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.8.2026)

Member States authorities are responsible for consular protection and the security of their citizens. The EU can confirm that the ten activists from the international humanitarian convoy, including the Portuguese national who had been detained in Sirte, Libya, since 24 May 2026, have been released. The Commission welcomes this outcome and the fact that they were able to return safely.

The humanitarian situation in Gaza is of grave concern, and the EU has been constantly calling on Israel to allow immediate, unimpeded access and sustained distribution of humanitarian assistance at scale into and throughout Gaza as well as to reopen border crossings and comply with international humanitarian law, thereby upholding its obligations under international law. Since 2023, the EU provided over EUR 674 million in humanitarian assistance for Palestine¹, working with trusted and certified partners to ensure aid reaches those most in need. The EU understands the goal of the flotilla's participants to deliver much-needed aid to people in desperate need. At the same time, the EU discourages such initiatives due to the risks to participants' safety and potential for escalation, and because the best way to deliver humanitarian assistance to Gaza is to do it through established channels.

The EU is firmly committed to a lasting and sustainable peace based on the two-state solution. The EU is ready to contribute to all efforts towards this solution and call on all parties to refrain from actions that undermine its viability. The EU will equally continue to work with regional and international partners, including through the Global Alliance.

¹ This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.