

(English version)

Priority question for written answer P-000496/25
to the Commission
Hilde Vautmans (Renew)
(4 February 2025)

Subject: EU-Israel Association Agreement

Whereas the EU and Israel will be discussing their relations in late February;

whereas Article 2 of the Association Agreement stipulates that ‘Relations between the Parties [...] shall be based on respect for human rights and democratic principles, which [...] constitutes an essential element of this Agreement.’;

whereas, under Article 79, either party may take ‘appropriate measures’ if it considers that the other party is failing to fulfil an obligation under the Agreement;

having regard to the unacceptable number of civilian deaths, the humanitarian situation in Gaza and Israel’s withdrawal from the agreement with UNRWA;

having regard to the escalation in the West Bank, violence by settlers, the expansion of illegal settlements, damage to EU-funded buildings, and Israeli military operations in the West Bank:

How will damage to EU-funded buildings be recompensed?

Submitted: 4.2.2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(28 March 2025)

The EU has reiterated on several occasions its strong opposition to Israel’s settlement policy and repeated actions taken in this context, notably demolitions and confiscations including of EU-funded assets, issuing numerous statements regretting the demolition of Palestinian structures.

On a number of occasions, Israel has been requested to provide restitution of, or compensate for, EU funded assets that have been demolished, dismantled or confiscated.

On the occasion of the 13th EU-Israel Association Council held on 24 February 2025, the EU stated that it strongly condemns the demolitions of the structures funded by the EU or its Member States and expects that Israel make good the damage in accordance with international law ⁽¹⁾.

On a yearly basis, the EU publishes the ‘Report on demolitions and seizures in the West Bank including East Jerusalem’ (latest released on November 2024 ⁽²⁾), which includes the number of structures demolished or seized and the total financial loss. Between 2015 and 2023, 927 structures have been demolished or seized for a total financial loss of EUR 2 902 099.

The EU has consistently raised with Israel the need to meet its obligations under international law towards the Palestinian population in the occupied West Bank, including in Area C and East Jerusalem.

The EU has conducted public advocacy that includes frequent visits of various sites in the occupied Palestinian territories by the EU and its Member States representatives, most recently the diplomatic mission visit to the Al-Bustan-Silwan neighbourhood in East-Jerusalem ⁽³⁾.

⁽¹⁾ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-6511-2025-INIT/en/pdf>

⁽²⁾ <https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2024/One%20Year%20Report%20on%20Demolitions%20and%20Seizures%20in%20the%20West%20Bank%20including%20East%20Jerusalem%20-%201%20January%20%2031%20December%202023.pdf>

⁽³⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/palestine-occupied-palestinian-territory-west-bank-and-gaza-strip/diplomatic-missions-visit-residents-al-bustan-silwan-neighborhood-east-jerusalem-threatened-imminent_en