

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001825/25
to the Commission
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(6 May 2025)**

Subject: Israeli Gaza Strip occupation plan

According to press reports, the Israeli Government has approved a plan for the military occupation of the Gaza Strip, the forced displacement of the civilian population and the reorganisation of humanitarian aid distribution, which has been blocked for more than two months.

This approach is a form of collective punishment against the Palestinian population, with dramatic consequences for innocent women, men and children, and is a clear violation of international law and the fundamental principles on which the EU is founded.

The statements made by the Israeli minister Smotrich, who said that he does not want to leave Gaza ‘even in exchange for the hostages’, make explicit a plan for permanent occupation that can no longer be ignored.

There is an urgent need for the EU to take a clear position consistent with its founding values, starting with the protection of the civilian population and respect for humanitarian law.

In light of the above:

1. What is the Commission doing to ensure an immediate and lasting ceasefire?
2. How does it intend to ensure full, safe and direct access for humanitarian aid to the exhausted and starving Palestinian population?

Supporters (¹)

Submitted: 6.5.2025

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(16 July 2025)**

The European Council in March 2025 (¹) deplored the breakdown of the ceasefire in Gaza and called for an immediate return to the full implementation of the ceasefire-hostage release agreement. It stressed the need for a ceasefire leading to the release of all hostages and a permanent end to hostilities.

The EU has been consistently calling for the immediate resumption of humanitarian aid at scale into Gaza. The High Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) of the Commission, the Commissioner for the Mediterranean and the Commissioner for Equality, Preparedness and Crisis Management called for the lifting of the blockade on humanitarian aid into Gaza (statements of 12 April 2025 (²) and 7 May 2025 (³)).

Following the exchange at the Foreign Affairs Council on 20 May 2025, with the support of the majority of Member States, the HR/VP announced the review of Israel’s compliance with Article 2 of the Association Agreement in view of the untenable humanitarian situation in Gaza.

This was discussed with Member States at the Foreign Affairs Council on 23 June 2025 as well as the European Council on 26 June 2025. The Foreign Affairs Council will revisit the issue on 15 July 2025. It will be up to Member States to decide the next steps, if any.

The Commission has allocated EUR 170 million of humanitarian assistance for Gaza and the West Bank in 2025 so far. This brings the total support to over EUR 500 million since 2023 (EUR 102 million in 2023 and EUR 237 million in 2024).

The Commission continues its utmost efforts to ensure full compliance with IHL and advocate for unimpeded access for all its humanitarian partners.

¹ This question is supported by Members other than the authors: Cecilia Strada (S&D), Marco Tarquinio (S&D)

(¹) <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/viyhc2m4/20250320-european-council-conclusions-en.pdf>.

(²) https://north-africa-middle-east-gulf.ec.europa.eu/news/joint-statement-high-representative-kallas-and-commissioners-suica-and-lahbib-humanitarian-situation-2025-04-12_en.

(³) https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/de/statement_25_1155.