

(English version)

Priority question for written answer P-003534/25
to the Commission
Dario Nardella (S&D)
(15 September 2025)

Subject: Upcoming measures proposed by the Commission regarding the Israel-Palestine conflict

The ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza presents one of the most serious emergencies of our time. In her recent 2025 State of the Union address before the Parliament, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen stated that the EU must uphold its commitment to Gaza and lead the way by taking concrete action. Therefore, the President proposed a package of measures, including the suspension of bilateral support to Israel, proposals to the Council for sanctions against extremist ministers and violent settlers and a partial suspension of the Association Agreement on trade-related matters.

In the light of the above:

1. What proposal does the Commission intend to present to the Council in order to suspend the EU-Israel Association Agreement and impose sanctions and what is the Commission's strategy in overcoming the differing positions of the Member States on this issue?
2. Does the Commission intend to urge the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to propose targeted sanctions against extremist Israeli ministers and settlers responsible for acts of violence, as announced during the State of the Union address?
3. What measures does the Commission intend to take independently against the Israeli Government, without the necessary approval from the Council?

Submitted: 15.9.2025

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

On 17 September 2025, following the State of the Union 2025 ⁽¹⁾ address and to respond to the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza, the Commission adopted and presented a package of measures to the Council. It includes:

1. The proposal to suspend certain trade-related provisions of the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement between the EU and Israel ⁽²⁾. In practice, the suspension means that imports from Israel to the EU will lose their preferential access to the EU markets and that these goods will be charged like any other third country with whom the EU has no free trade agreement. This proposal would require qualified majority in the Council. The Commission is engaging with Member States in various Council formations to ensure the qualified majority vote.
2. Building on the High Representative/Vice-President's earlier work with Member States' Foreign Ministers, a reinforced sanction package was presented to the Council ⁽³⁾, including further sanctions against Hamas, as well as against extremist ministers of the Israeli government and violent settlers. This proposal requires consensus in the Council.
3. In parallel, the Commission has taken the necessary steps to put on hold the bilateral support to Israel, without affecting the work with Israeli civil society or to fight antisemitism and foster Jewish Life (through the support to Yad Vashem ⁽⁴⁾). Concretely, EUR 14 million of already allocated funds for programmes in the period from 2020 to 2024 are directly affected. In addition, until further notice, the Commission will not proceed with the future submission of future yearly allocations for 2025 and beyond. This decision takes effect immediately and does not require any additional steps.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/state-union/state-union-2025_en.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2000:147:FULL.>

⁽³⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_2112.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://www.yadvashem.org/>.