(English version)

Priority question for written answer P-000016/26
to the Commission
Kathleen Van Brempt (S&D)
(6 January 2026)

Subject: Suspension of access for humanitarian aid organisations to Gaza and the West Bank

On 30 December, 37 humanitarian aid organisations received official notification from the Israeli Government that their registration for activities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would expire the following day. As a result, the organisations concerned will have to suspend their activities in Palestinian territory for a period of at least 60 days, while the need for humanitarian aid in Gaza and the West Bank remains as high as ever. Despite the ceasefire, one in four families in Gaza still relies on only one meal a day.

The following questions thus arise:

1. Is the Commission aware of the situation which humanitarian aid organisations are facing in Gaza and the West Bank?

2. What measures is the Commission taking to restore the access of these aid organisations to Gaza and the West Bank as soon as possible, and how does it intend to ensure that Palestinians receive the humanitarian aid they need in the meantime?

3. What is the state of play regarding the implementation of the political and economic sanctions announced by the Commission — through the Commission President and the Vice-President/High Representative — in order to ramp up the pressure on Netanyahu's government?

Submitted: 6.1.2026

Answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission
(10 February 2026)

The Commission is unequivocal that the non-governmental organisation (NGO) registration law cannot be implemented in its current form ([1]), as reiterated in the joint statement ([2]) by the High-Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Commissioner for Equality, Preparedness and Crisis Management and Commissioner for the Mediterranean, on 6 January 2026.

The current process, and the pending de-registration of 37 international NGOs (INGOs), is an obstacle to the delivery of aid in Gaza. The EU has been raising these issues with Israeli authorities and partners, including through diplomatic engagement with the Israeli Foreign Minister.

The Commission advocates for a registration framework based on clear criteria, minimal administrative requirements and streamlined renewal procedures, that respects international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles. INGOs are essential to enable the scaling up of assistance and delivery of critical services.

The Commission will continue to support its certified EU INGOs, as long as they can operate and has no intention of suspending its humanitarian funding to INGOs in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

After the review of Israel's obligations under Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement ([3]), conducted by HR/VP for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy with the support of a majority of Member States, the Commission proposed to partially suspend the participation of Israel in Horizon Europe ([4]).

Commission President announced a set of measures in her 2025 State of the Union to address the deteriorating situation in Gaza and in the West Bank ([5]). The latter was addressed in every Foreign Affairs Council since 7 October 2023, and discussions continue in the Council.

([1]) On 18 December 2025, the European Council called for immediate and unhindered access to humanitarian aid, along with its sustained delivery across Gaza, and emphasised that the UN, its agencies, and humanitarian organisations must be able to operate independently and impartially. https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/12/18/european-council-conclusions-on-the-middle-east-european-defence-and-security-next-mff-enlargement-and-reforms-migration-and-other-items/.
([2]) https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_26_41.
([3]) https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:313:0081:0082:EN:PDF.
([4]) https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_1921.
([5]) https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/ov/SPEECH_25_2053.