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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(22.10.2026)

The EU is aware of the decision adopted by the Israeli Central Elections Committee to disqualify the Joint List, the United Arab List / Ra'am, Sami Abu Shehadeh and Ofer Cassif in the forthcoming elections. The EU also took note that the Israel's Supreme Court overturned the disqualification of the Joint List and the United Arab List / Ra'am, and reinstated Ofer Cassif's candidacy. It is not for the EU to comment on Abou Shehadeh's decision to withdraw his candidacy following the Supreme Court hearing.

The 2025 review of Israel's compliance with its obligations under Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement¹, which the High Representative/Vice-President conducted with the support of a majority of Member States, found that there are indications that Israel would be in breach of its obligations. Following the review, and in light of the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza, as well as the worsening situation in the West Bank, the President of the Commission announced a set of proposed measures during the State of the Union address², including a reinforced package of sanctions and the suspension of certain trade-related provisions of the EU-Israel Association Agreement. The Commission has also put on hold its bilateral support to Israel, with the exception of support to civil society and Yad Vashem. Discussions continue in the Council on other measures which require approval by the Member States.

¹ https://eeas.europa.eu/archives/delegations/israel/documents/eu_israel/asso_agree_en.pdf.

² https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/ov/SPEECH_25_2053.