



*[Dear Supporter: this is a Model Letter to EU Officials for your convenience. For Ministers of EU Member states, please replace the current salutation by 'Dear Minister XX'. Please feel free to edit according to your location and preferences.]*

President von der Leyen, Vice-President Kallas, and Commissioner Šefčovič,

I am writing to you with the urgent request to initiate the suspension of at least parts of the EU-Israel Association agreement and to request the EU Council on Foreign Affairs on July 15 to support this proposal.

The atrocities in Gaza and increasingly in the occupied West Bank by the Israeli government require the EU, as Israel's largest trading partner, to act. With the review of the EU's own External Action Service concluding that human rights are violated in Gaza, the EU risks complicity in serious war crimes.

Specifically, I ask you and your colleagues to:

1. Suspend the trade measures under the Association Agreement and aligned with this, ban trade with Israeli settlements on the occupied West Bank, which are illegal under international law.
2. Following the example of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Norway and the UK, sanction Ministers Ben-Gvir and Smotrich be for "incitement of violence" against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.
3. Impose an EU-wide embargo on arms and military technology and dual use material transfers to Israel, in compliance with the EU Common Position on arms exports and the Arms Trade Treaty.
4. Suspend EU Horizon research funding to Israeli organizations and companies, which received 1.1 billion euro from 2021 - 2024. A quarter of the grant recipients are involved with the Israeli military, according to media investigations.

You can act at the July 15 EU Ministerial Council meeting which will discuss the EU-Israel Association Agreement. Meaningful steps to address human rights abuses by the EU are possible even without full Council unanimity through qualified majority voting for specific commercial measures, such as banning trade from illegal settlements.

For 21 months, Gaza has faced relentless bombardments: more than 15,000 children have been killed, tens of thousands injured, and nearly 200,000 civilians—almost one in ten Gazans—have suffered death or injury since October 2023. Hospitals, schools, and essential infrastructure have been destroyed, and the blockade of food, water, and aid has brought Gaza to the edge of famine. In the Occupied West Bank, Palestinians have suffered unprecedented mass displacement and violence by extremist settlers, backed by Israeli forces.

Despite this, the EU continues to reward Israel with preferential trade access – 28.8% of Israeli exports go to the EU. The EU–Israel Association Agreement includes a clear human rights clause: both parties must respect fundamental human rights for the agreement to remain valid. At this moment, that clause is being openly violated, as confirmed by the report of the European External Action Service (EEAS) of last June.

The EU has suspended trade agreements in the past over human rights abuses, though none as extreme or well-documented as what is unfolding in Gaza and increasingly, in the Occupied West Bank.

The crisis in Gaza has sparked major concern across the EU and citizens are speaking up against silence and complicity. In June, 250,000 joined 'Red March' protests in Brussels and The Hague, with weekly demonstrations still happening in European capitals. Nearly 400,000 have signed [a petition](#) urging EU action, backed by over [120 NGOs and unions](#) calling to suspend the agreement.

The EU has unique leverage because of its trade ties with Israel. Its reputation as a global beacon of democracy, cooperation, and the rule of law has come under strain — and failure to act will deepen the damage.

Please stand on the side of human rights, solidarity and justice aligned with the values of the EU. Europe must act or forfeit the values it claims to defend.

Sincerely,