Palestine one year on from the 'ceasefire': why no EU action?

Call for Action, issued by European former Ministers, Ambassadors & Senior Officials

5 October 2026

In just a few weeks the Israeli government plans to award contracts for the first tranche of the illegal **E1 settlement project,** which critically would cut the West Bank in two and render impossible the two-state solution, the only possible outcome that can resolve the Israel-Palestine conflict. Despite the drastic implications of this new land annexation the **EU has taken no action to deter E1** nor, more generally, has the Union complied with its obligations under EU treaties and its duty to take action against violations of international law. While, commendably, some EU Member States have implemented national measures against illegal settlements, others including Germany and Italy continue to systematically **block the adoption of any EU measures**, thus becoming de facto complicit in undermining both EU values and the two-state solution.

The European Commission is urged to show **leadership** by immediately bringing forward legislative proposals to:

- Sanction all financial institutions and other providers of services to the implementation of E1 and other illegal settlements, as already called for in our Statement of 6 May 2026 ;

- Prevent all EU trade with illegal settlements.

Concurrently, we call for t**he EU to implement long delayed proposals to suspend the trade provisions of the EU-Israel Association Agreement.**

Decisions on these actions must be taken at the upcoming **EU Foreign Ministers meeting on 12 October**. The 27 will convene after another year of violence and ethnic cleansing perpetrated by the Israeli government on the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank. The situation, as leaders of many Member States stated at UNGA, is deeply disturbing:

- In **Gaza, another 1400 Palestinians, including 200 children**, have been killed in the year after the 'ceasefire' of 11 October 2025. Since the heinous Hamas attacks of 7 October 2023, the shocking death toll inflicted by the IDF on Palestinians in Gaza has risen to **74,000**, including over **21,600 children**, with **175,000** persons injured. The humanitarian situation remains dire for the 2 million people crammed into under 40% of the land area of Gaza, with inadequate supplies of all essentials for human life - food, sanitation, electricity, shelter, medical supplies - due to draconian restrictions by the Israeli government in defiance of humanitarian principles and the ICJ's provisional measures and Advisory Opinions of 2024/25. There has been no disarmament, no IDF withdrawal, reconstruction is blocked, while the 'Board of Peace' plans to revive Gaza remain passive and stillborn. International journalists remain banned. Meanwhile the Israeli government continues to ignore binding measures imposed on it in 2024 by preliminary findings of the ICJ in the genocide case brought by South Africa, whilst many EU Member States fail to use means (eg banning arms sales) reasonably available to them to uphold the ICJ rulings.

- In the **West Bank**, in addition to the E1 project, an epidemic of State supported settler violence (**over 1600 attacks** in 2026 alone) is spreading throughout the territory with continuing displacement, killings and injuries of Palestinians. Over **1200** Palestinians tragically lost their lives in the last three years as Israeli land grabs and settlement building have accelerated with total impunity at an unprecedented pace in defiance of the ICJ's Advisory Opinion of July 2024.

In her September 2025 address to the European Parliament, the Commission President stated that European citizens are asking how much worse things must get before there is unity of response.

<u>Now</u> is surely the time for the EU and Member States to act.

Call for Action co-signed by over 500 European former Ministers, Ambassadors and Senior Officials.

Link to: **List of Co-Signatories**

Links to translations

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