

**Question for written answer E-011731/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Sofia Sakorafa (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Report of the United Nations Independent Commission of Inquiry on the possible commission of war crimes during the 2014 Gaza conflict

The report of the United Nations Independent Commission of Inquiry, published in Geneva on 22 June 2015 after a year-long inquiry, states that the Israeli armed forces may be guilty of war crimes relating to the indiscriminate attacks on houses in Gaza, as well as in buildings housing medical services. The testimonies so far recorded about the 'unprecedented' material destruction of the Gaza Strip reflect the indiscriminate death toll of Palestinian citizens (2 251 dead, including 1 462 civilians –299 of whom were women and 551 children).

Bearing in mind the references made by United Nations Commission of Inquiry to the heavy responsibility of the military leadership and the ruling political elite of Israel for widespread war crimes – in flagrant violation of international law and treaties – and the EU decision since June 2009 to suspend the upgrading of the Association Agreement that governs EU – Israel relations pending progress in the peace process and implementation of common values, will the Commission say:

- Does it acknowledge that these findings constitute violations of international law?
- Will it re-examine the possibility of activating Article 2 to suspend the Association Agreement with a country that systematically violates international law and is jeopardising the prospect of the existence of an independent Palestinian state?
- What will it do to ensure that the relevant article of the Association Agreement is actually applied rather than being purely decorative?