

**Question for written answer E-009054/2016**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: VP/HR - EUBAM Rafah

The EU Border Assistance Mission at the Rafah Crossing Point (EUBAM Rafah) was established to oversee operations on the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt. The Rafah crossing point was opened on 9 June 2007. Since then, EUBAM has remained on standby, holding out for a political solution and ready to re-engage at very short notice.

The regular opening of the Rafah crossing point is a vital issue for any future agreement concerning the Gaza Strip.

That is what the EU says, but in actual fact the border crossing is only sporadically open, subject to a range of thoroughgoing conditions and restrictions.

Under Article 13(2) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

1. Does the VP/HR have information that shows that EUBAM Rafah is actually guaranteeing freedom of movement for the 1.5 million Palestinians living in Gaza?
2. Does the VP/HR agree that Israel is breaching the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?