

Question for written answer E-001190/2019
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Paloma López Bermejo (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - Measures taken in response to the attack on the *Al-Awda* and *Freedom* European vessels by the Israeli Navy

Last summer, 74 km off the coast of Gaza, the Israeli Navy stormed two European vessels which were transporting 114 boxes of medical supplies and humanitarian aid. The two vessels, named *Al-Awda* and *Freedom*, were also carrying crew and civilians, who were arrested and detained and who had their personal belongings seized.

The reason Israel gave to justify jailing the crew and confiscating their belongings was that the vessels had tried to break through the blockade in order to get medical supplies into Gaza. As a result of the blockade, two million Palestinians are living in distress in Gaza.

- (1) What steps have been taken to recover the humanitarian aid, as well as the personal belongings of the civilians on board, and get it to the Palestinian people?
- (2) What is the Commission doing to prevent Israel from carrying out such actions?