

**Question for written answer E-002951/2021**

**to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**

Rule 138

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Subject: The EU and the UN Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Israel

On 27 May 2021, during the 30<sup>th</sup> Special Session on the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), the UN Human Rights (UNHRC) Council adopted an unprecedented resolution establishing a mandate for an ongoing Commission of Inquiry to investigate violations of international human rights and humanitarian law committed in the OPT and Israel since 1 April 2021.

The Commission of Inquiry is also mandated to investigate all the underlying root causes of recurrent tensions, instability and continuation of the conflict, including systemic discrimination and repression based on national, ethnic, racial or religious identity.

Despite the urgent need for an end to the cycle of impunity in order to achieve a sustainable solution, the EU's position included no mention at all of accountability<sup>1</sup>, while EU Member States in the UNHRC all abstained or voted against the resolution during the Special Session.

1. Does the EU plan to support the UN-mandated Commission of Inquiry in its work to ensure accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the OPT and Israel? How?
2. Does the EU intend to address the legal consequences and implications of Israel's institutionalised and systemic discrimination against the Palestinian people, amounting to the crime of apartheid, in line with relevant obligations under international law?

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<sup>1</sup> [eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-geneva/99111/eu-statement-30th-special-session-human-rights-council-grave-human-rights-situation-occupied\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/un-geneva/99111/eu-statement-30th-special-session-human-rights-council-grave-human-rights-situation-occupied_en)