

Question for written answer E-000094/2023

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: Order to remove Palestinian flags by new Israeli security minister

Israel's new security minister, the far-right Itamar Ben Gvir, has ordered the Police Commissioner's office to remove all visible Palestinian flags, including in internationally recognised Palestinian territory illegally occupied by Israel.

This follows a series of measures taken by Israel over the past week in response to the Palestinian National Authority's request (approved by the UN General Assembly) to bring Israeli violations of international law before the International Criminal Court. These measures include withholding funds from the Palestinian Authority, banning new construction in certain areas of the West Bank, and revoking the travel permit of Palestinian Authority Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki.

1. Will the Vice-President / High Representative consider taking concrete steps to show that he rejects these measures, such as ending Israel's participation in EU-funded programmes including Horizon Europe and Erasmus+, many of which take place in illegally occupied territory or are used for occupation-related purposes?
2. Does the Vice-President / High Representative consider that, in view of the systematic non-compliance with its international obligations, the EU-Israel Association Agreement should be suspended?

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