

**Question for written answer E-003038/2023/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Miguel Urbán Crespo (The Left)

Subject: War crimes in the occupied Palestinian territory

On 9 October 2023, Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Galant announced that he had ordered the complete siege of the Gaza Strip. He said: 'There will be no electricity, no food, no fuel, everything is closed. We are fighting animals and we are acting accordingly'. This constitutes a breach of Israel's legal obligations, as it violates Articles 55 and 56 of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. Let us not forget that Commission President Ursula von der Leyen classified Russia's attacks on Ukrainian civilian infrastructure, in particular electricity infrastructure, as war crimes. According to the Commission of Inquiry for the Occupied Palestinian Territories established by the UN Human Rights Council, 'there is clear evidence that war crimes may have been committed in the latest explosion of violence in Israel and Gaza'.

In light of the above:

1. Does the Commission intend to take action to prevent war crimes and crimes against humanity? If so, what kind of action?
2. Is the Commission considering suspending the preferential agreement with Israel – a preferential partner of the European Union – while it continues to commit war crimes?

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