

Priority question for written answer P-002781/2021
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs
and Security Policy
Rule 138
Grace O'Sullivan (Verts/ALE)

Subject: EU strategy on the Israel-Palestine conflict

Since 1987, the Israel-Palestine conflict has claimed the lives of over 14 000 people, the vast majority Palestinian. This mismatched and brutal assault continues, as the world stands on the sidelines watching the horror unfold.

By staying inactive and silent, many EU Member States are giving their tacit approval to these disproportionate Israeli onslaughts. Meanwhile, the US administration has just approved weapons sales to Israel worth millions. The world should not be rewarding Israel for its illegal behaviour.

The international community demands a ceasefire. That said, we must also make it clear that a return to the status quo is not the answer. With this in mind:

1. Does the VP/HR agree that the EU should be using its power as Israel's biggest trading bloc to demand an end to Israel's forced evictions and expansion of illegal settlements?
2. Will the VP/HR commit to using all of the EU's trade policy tools, including targeted EU measures against Israeli individuals in charge of planning and implementing the settlement expansion and annexation in the West Bank, and the re-evaluation of the EU-Israel Association Agreement?
3. Is the VP/HR supportive of an independent inquiry into war crimes committed in Palestinian territories, such as the one launched by the International Criminal Court?