

EN

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Answer given by Mr Lenarčič
on behalf of the European Commission
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The EU has consistently reiterated its strong opposition to Israel's settlement policy and illegal actions taken in this context¹. It has repeatedly reminded Israel of the need to meet its obligations under international law, and especially international humanitarian law, towards the Palestinian population in the occupied West Bank, including in Area C and East Jerusalem.

Moreover, the EU is engaging in public advocacy that includes frequent visits of various sites in the occupied Palestinian territory by the EU and its Member States representatives².

The Commission is keeping track of all demolitions and confiscations of donor-funded structures, including EU-funded assets and the related financial damage.

At this stage a list of possible options to secure compensation from Israel for EU funding lost in demolitions has not been discussed.

On a number of occasions, Israel was requested to return, or compensate for, EU-funded assets that have been demolished, dismantled or confiscated by Israel. The EU continues to use a variety of diplomatic and political channels in order to enhance its stance and the effectiveness of the overall EU support, including through the recent EU Statement on the occasion of the Association Council.

It is for the Council, acting by unanimity, to decide on the possible adoption of EU restrictive measures.

¹ Some recent examples of statements issued can be found at: https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/statement-high-representative-josep-borrell-settlement-expansion-givat-hamatos_en; https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/israel-statement-spokesperson-new-settlement-expansion_en?s=200, https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/israelpalestine-statement-spokesperson-developments-occupied-east-jerusalem_en?s=200

² A joint letter to COGAT (the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories) from the diplomatic missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah that was dispatched in November 2022, detailing incidents of demolitions and confiscations between June and September 2022, recalling Israel's obligations under international humanitarian law and reiterating that confiscation and demolition of donor-funded humanitarian assistance is unacceptable. Frequent visits are organised locally, the most recent such visit taking place on 21 November 2022 - the following statement was issued after the school was demolished - https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/palestine-statement-spokesperson-israeli-demolition-school-masafer-yatta_en?s=206