

Priority question for written answer P-000265/2024
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs
and Security Policy
Rule 138
Massimiliano Smeriglio (S&D)

Subject: Conference on colonising the Gaza Strip

On Sunday, 28 January, a conference entitled 'Settlement Brings Security' was reportedly held at the International Conference Centre in Jerusalem.

Twelve ministers and 15 Members of the Knesset were reportedly present at the event, which supported by Netanyahu's ruling Likud party. A map behind the dais apparently displayed a map of the settlements Sharon removed from Gaza in 2005 and those the nationalists would like to build now.

Haim Katz, the Minister of Tourism, reportedly stated that removing settlements helped give rise to the emergence of security problems in Gaza and the West Bank, while Miki Zohar, Minister of Culture and Sports, is believed to have added presenting the creation of a Palestinian state to the conference's objectives. National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, together with Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, reportedly called for the 'voluntary emigration' of Palestinians from Gaza.

Can the VP/HR therefore say whether:

1. it is aware that the conference was held and that government representatives took part?
2. it considers that the aims of the conference, the serious statements made by the Israeli ministers and the 'Victory and Renewal of Settlement Pact' signed by them openly flout international law, UN resolutions and the 'two peoples two states' solution promoted by the EU?
3. it will express the EU's concern at such a climate of incitement to hatred and illegal colonisation?

Submitted: 29.1.2024