

# EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



MENA Middle East and North Africa

MENA.2 Middle East II - Israel, occupied Palestinian territories and MEPP

**Head of Division**

Brussels,

*Ares(2023)7731522*

**To all the signatories of the petition “Call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza”**

Dear Petitioner,

Thank you for your message. The EU condemned in the strongest possible terms Hamas and its brutal and indiscriminate terrorist attacks across Israel and deeply deplores the loss of life. We were clear that Israel had the right to defend itself in line with humanitarian and international law, and reiterated the importance of ensuring the protection of all civilians at all times.

The EU has voiced its gravest concern for the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza and deplores the great number of civilian casualties. We call for continued, rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian access and aid to reach those in need through all necessary measures including humanitarian corridors and new, extended humanitarian pauses. The EU also launched an EU Humanitarian Air Bridge operation consisting of several flights to Egypt to deliver lifesaving supplies to humanitarian organisations in Gaza. The EU quadrupled humanitarian assistance to 100 million euro.

The first pause had a positive impact allowing the release of groups of hostages and a substantial increase in the delivery of humanitarian aid to the Palestinians civilians in Gaza. We hope that another pause can soon be agreed and supports efforts to that end.

The EU remains committed to a lasting and sustainable peace based on the two-state solution through reinvigorated efforts in the Middle East Peace Process. We will spare no effort to engage with regional and international partners who could have a positive role to play in preventing further escalation, and encourage the efforts to revive the political process.

Yours sincerely,

(e-signed)  
Michael Mann