

# EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



**Head of Division**

MENA Middle East and North Africa

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

Brussels,  
*Ares(2024)7338525-13022928*

Dear Petitioner,

As reiterated by EU leaders at the European Council on 26 October, the EU condemns in the strongest possible terms Hamas and its brutal and indiscriminate terrorist attacks across Israel and deeply deplors the loss of life. The EU was clear that Israel must exercise its right to defend itself in line with international humanitarian law, and reiterated the importance of ensuring the protection of all civilians at all times.

The EU has welcomed the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 2720 calling for swift, safe and scaled up aid delivery to the people of Gaza and for laying the groundwork for a sustainable cessation of hostilities. The EU consistently calls for a humanitarian pause, and will continue to advocate for significantly improved humanitarian access. The High Representative has also supported the UN Secretary General's call for the UN Security Council to act to avert a humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza and the collapse of the humanitarian system, and will remain engaged to this end.

The EU is playing its part regarding the provision of urgent humanitarian aid to civilians in Gaza and in coordination with its partners: we have mobilised EUR 225 million since 7 October. Humanitarian aid to Palestinians was quadrupled to EUR 103 million in 2023, with the Commission announcing already an initial EUR 125 million for year 2024. The EU remains the biggest donor to the Palestinian Authority and on 1 March, the European Commission announced it will proceed with paying first tranche of EUR 50 million to UNRWA and increase emergency support to Palestinians across the region by EUR 68 million in 2024.

The EU is working actively to contribute to peace based on the Two-State solution, including through the Peace Day Effort. It welcomes diplomatic peace and security initiatives, and supports the holding of an international peace conference soon.

The EU and its Member States continue to closely monitor the developments on the ground, and raise their concerns consistently either publicly or in bilateral contacts with their partners.

(e-signed)  
Michael Mann