

# 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) 3909260*

Dear Petitioner,

Thank you for your e-mail of 28 April 2024 to the President of the Commission Ursula von der Leyen. I have been asked to reply on her behalf.

Since the beginning of the conflict, the EU has condemned in the strongest possible terms the brutal and indiscriminate terrorist attacks by Hamas against Israel on 7 October, and has reiterated this condemnation time and again. We have deplored the loss of life and consistently reiterated Israel's right to defend itself, in line with international law.

The EU gives its full support to the comprehensive roadmap presented by President Biden, that would lead to an enduring ceasefire in Gaza, the release of all hostages and a surge of humanitarian assistance to Gaza. The EU appreciates the determined efforts by the US, Egypt and Qatar in facilitating negotiations to bring an end to the war between Israel and Hamas, while ensuring Israel's security, to which the EU remains fully committed. The EU welcomes the adoption of the United Nations Security Council resolution 2735<sup>1</sup>. This resolution proposes a comprehensive three-phase ceasefire deal to end the war in Gaza, urging both Israel and Hamas to implement it fully and without delay and condition.

Too many civilian lives have been lost. An enduring ceasefire is urgently needed, to ensure protection of civilians, the unconditional and immediate release of all hostages whose safety and well-being is of concern, and to increase the flow of much needed humanitarian relief to Gaza in view of the deepening humanitarian crisis.

The EU is working actively to a lasting and sustainable peace based on the Two-State solution, through reinvigorated efforts in the Middle East Peace Process. No effort will be spared 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.

*(e-signed)*  
Michael Mann

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15723.doc.htm>