

**Delivery:** EU demarche to be carried out by the Head of EU Delegation at the highest possible level in both the MFA and the National Security Council.

**Key points:**

1. The EU recalls its support and commitment to a just and lasting resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on a two state solution, with the State of Israel and an independent, democratic, contiguous, sovereign and viable State of Palestine living side by side in peace and security and mutual recognition.
  
1. The EU considers the preservation of the two state solution a priority. The only way to resolve the conflict is through an agreement that ends the occupation which began in 1967, that ends all claims and fulfills the aspirations of both parties. A one state reality would not be compatible with these aspirations.
  
1. The Foreign Affairs Council has expressed serious concern on several occasions about the impact of continued settlement expansion and have called on Israel to halt settlement activity, including in East Jerusalem and especially in sensitive areas such as Har Homa, Givat Hamatos and E1. The EU has already publicly and strongly opposed plans to develop the E1 area that, if implemented, would seriously jeopardize the possibility of a contiguous and viable Palestinian state and of Jerusalem as capital of two states. For the same reasons, the EU strongly opposes also the current plans relating to the possible new settlement of Givat Hamatos and caution the Israeli government not to move ahead with tenders and construction. Such a development would constitute one more grave "fact on the ground" which would be liable to critically prejudice the outcome of peace negotiations. It would also increase further tensions on the ground, bearing in mind in particular the current unstable situation in East Jerusalem due also to the repeated challenges to the status quo on the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif.
  
1. The EU is extremely concerned about the plans recently approved by the Israeli government aimed at relocating up to 12,000 Bedouins without their consent in a new town in the Jordan valley, expelling them from lands in the West Bank, including the E1 area. The EU strongly urges Israel to put these plans on hold and search for other solutions together with the concerned populations and the Palestinian Authority. The EU underlines that implementing those plans may amount to a serious breach of International Humanitarian Law (IV Geneva Convention).

1. The Israeli authorities should be aware that these developments are receiving wide media coverage in Europe and are followed with increasing concern also by public opinion.

1. The EU considers that these and other concrete questions relating to the occupied Palestinian territory would need to be thoroughly discussed between the EU and IL. The EU is a key investor in Palestinian capacity and state building, as appreciated by Israel itself, and is also contributing to address Palestinian humanitarian and development needs. Therefore there is a legitimate expectation to have a constructive dialogue with the Israeli authorities on measures from their side which may impact on our assistance and its ultimate objectives of creating a sound enabling environment for economic and social development in the oPt and contributing to create the conditions for a viable Palestinian state.

1. The EU is ready to engage further with the IL government with a view to addressing the specific and increasing threats to the preservation of the two-state solution, and the concrete obstacles on the ground to Palestinian economic and social development (e.g. restrictions of movement; planning for housing and land use; access to land and other natural resources; demolitions; settlement expansion; settler violence). The EU therefore would like to propose the establishment of a regular and structured dialogue with the Israeli government on these questions, going beyond, but without prejudice to, the continued contacts on the ground with COGAT. This dialogue should remain informal and not public and should not affect or be related to the existing framework of bilateral dialogue, including the Association agreement sub-committees.

1. The EU looks forward to constructive Israeli feedback to its proposal.