

H.E. Mr. Antonio Costa President of the European Council

H.E. Ms. Kaja Kallas High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the European Commission

Subject: Urgent EU Response to the Situation in Gaza

August 10, 2025

Your Excellencies,

I am writing to express my deep concern over the recent decisions of the Government of Israel to fully occupy and assume control of the Gaza Strip, and the severe humanitarian implications that such actions are already producing.

Despite the mounting international alarm over the humanitarian crisis and famine conditions in Gaza—and despite the harrowing images of malnourished children and civilians desperate for humanitarian relief—there has been no substantial progress in meeting the urgent needs of the population.

The planned measures risk precipitating the mass displacement of millions of Palestinians, raising the spectre of a new Nakba. This scenario carries serious consequences for regional stability, with particular pressure on neighbouring Arab states.

In this context, I wish to stress the following points:

- Fundamental humanitarian principles are being fully disregarded;
- Palestinian civilians face acute hunger and deprivation;
- The prospect of large-scale forced displacement poses grave risks for regional security.

Given the gravity of the situation, the European Union must act with unity, speed, and determination. I therefore urge that an extraordinary meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council be convened immediately to adopt a comprehensive EU action plan aimed at:

- 1. Securing an immediate cessation of hostilities;
- 2. Ensuring urgent and unhindered humanitarian access to address famine and medical shortages in Gaza;
- 3. Facilitating the release of all Israeli hostages.

The European Union's credibility and moral authority depend on our capacity to respond decisively to humanitarian catastrophes and threats to peace. We have both a moral duty and a strategic interest in preventing further escalation. History will judge us harshly if we remain bystanders.

Yours sincerely,

Nikos Papandreou Member of the European Parliament S&D Group