



From Ceasefire to Peace and beyond – the EU's vital role

STATEMENT by 414 former EU & Member State Ministers, Ambassadors and Senior Officials

16 October 2025

This group welcomes that President Trump's plan to bring peace between Israel and Palestine has led successfully, in its first phase, to the release of all the 20 remaining living Israeli hostages and nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners and detainees, together with a partial Israeli withdrawal from areas under occupation in Gaza. The remains of other Israeli hostages should be repatriated as soon as is possible. The current fragile ceasefire in Gaza must be the start of a permanent end of violence: **under no circumstances should hostilities resume**. In the same vein we condemn outright the current wave of revenge killings by Hamas.

Simon Coveney, former Tánaiste (Deputy PM) / Foreign Minister of Ireland: *"The task ahead of the Parties and the International Community, including the EU, is formidable but clear - ending once and for all the conflict between Israel and Palestine and establishing two states living side-by-side in peace and security: this opportunity must be seized at all costs."*

A credible pathway to peace requires that the next phases of the plan, including security and demilitarisation arrangements, policing, governance and the future role of the Palestinian Authority be elaborated, negotiated and implemented, with maximum international pressure exerted on all Parties to de-escalate to ensure a **sustainable peace** backed up by an empowering UN Security Council Resolution. The first priority must be a **full and uninhibited resumption of humanitarian aid deliveries to Gaza in accordance with humanitarian principles** and ensuring there will be no further risks of malnutrition and starvation. The EU must earmark significant resources for aid and reconstruction - including under the new EU Pact for the Mediterranean - and work collaboratively and at pace with the UN, most notably with UNRWA which should be immediately permitted by Israel to provide aid to Gaza, together with NGOs and others with tried and tested distribution networks. Critical supplies of food, water, shelter, medical and sanitation items need to be delivered urgently and hospitals and utilities rehabilitated immediately. Children, many of whom are traumatised and in need of specialist post trauma services - which the EU could provide - must be given the chance to resume their education. International journalists and human rights organisations must be allowed into Gaza to report and assess the situation on the ground.

Margot Wallström, former Swedish Foreign Minister & former First Vice-President of the European Commission: *"Resupplying Gaza with humanitarian aid, removing more than 50 million tons of rubble and unexploded ordinance and launching an estimated \$50 billion reconstruction programme are Herculean tasks. Stable security conditions will be absolutely essential. The EU, working in close coordination with Palestinian and international partners, must play its full part in this effort."*

A permanent peace in the region, an end to the prevailing siege conditions and the promotion of freedom of movement of people and goods must be established on the basis of two functioning States living side by side in peace and security within the June 1967 borders, with any changes being mutually agreed by the Parties. Palestinian rights to self-determination and statehood, only vaguely

addressed in the Trump plan, are now fully endorsed by 157 UN Member States and must be turned into reality, as foreseen in the New York Declaration of the Global Alliance and past UN resolutions.

Josep Borrell, former President of the European Parliament & EU High Representative / Vice-President: *“Peace in the Middle East must be underpinned by the provisions of the UN Charter with no impunity for those who committed acts in violation of international law. The EU must use all levers at its disposal to press Israel to end its illegal occupation of Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem - consistent with the Advisory Opinion of the ICJ of July 2024 - and back the setting up of a representative, duly elected Palestinian government in a future State recognised by all UN Members.”*

The EU must act robustly against spoilers and extremists on both sides whose actions jeopardise the establishment of a future Palestinian State, with particular focus on ideologues pursuing colonisation and settlement expansion in the West Bank aided and abetted by the Israeli government. The EU should not hold back from imposing restrictive measures on all such recalcitrants whose actions are in clear violation of UN Resolutions, the Peace Plan and the EU-Israel Association Agreement. Allegations of violations of the human rights of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli detention centres should be thoroughly investigated and the EU should push for the release of political prisoners and an end to the Israeli practice of administrative detention.

The Palestinian people must elect their own political leaders, not excluding prominent individuals currently imprisoned by Israel, in free and fair democratic elections observed by the international community. The EU, in accordance with its core values and principles, as set out in the Treaties, must play its full part in securing and consolidating the peace for the benefit of both Parties, using all instruments at its disposal - including sanctions - in pursuit of these aims. Securing the peace also entails applying international law as interpreted by the ECJ, ICJ and ICC, including **implementing judgements and opinions in cases** currently pending. Consistent with EU policy in other conflicts, States and all perpetrators must be held responsible and face justice for their crimes and unlawful conduct. Compensation must be made for loss of life and damage caused by military operations in occupied territory. Without accountability for acts undertaken in violation of international law there can be no just and lasting peace.

The EU, the most successful peace project in history, should ensure that its own identity and experience in promoting reconciliation and cooperative security is brought to bear on the peace process, thereby fostering stability, trust and mutual respect throughout the region and laying the basis for all peoples to live their lives in peace and dignity.

Statement co-signed on 16 October 2025 by **414 former EU and Member State Ministers, Ambassadors and Senior Officials**. Hyperlink to the [List of all co-signatories](#).

The former Ministers & Ambassadors who have co-signed this Statement are from the following EU Member States: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Spain and Sweden. Others may be added later.

This Statement remains open for signatures. The current cumulative number of co-signatories is: **414**

[EN](#) [DE](#) [DK](#) [ES](#) [IT](#) [PT](#) [AR](#) (to be updated)

Earlier Statements were issued by this group in [July](#), [August](#) and [September](#) 2025