

To the attention of H.E. Ms Ursula von der Leyen  
President of the European Commission  
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200  
1049 Brussels  
Belgium



*Brussels, 24 September 2025*

**Subject: Protection and rescue to Global Sumud Flotilla sailing to Gaza**

Dear President Von der Leyen,

The Global Sumud Flotilla is transporting humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza, with over 500 civilians on board, including some of our fellow MEPs. The aim of this initiative is to break the Israeli naval blockade, which is an essential part of the genocide perpetrated against the Palestinian people for over 700 days, as indisputably certified by the United Nations, most recently in the report drafted by former High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay and the UN International Commission of Inquiry.

On the night between 23rd and 24th of September 2025, the Global Sumud Flotilla was attacked by Israeli drones off the Greek island of Crete, in international waters. The attack hit more than ten boats in the flotilla composed of more than 50 ships on their way to Gaza, causing damage with sound bombs and tear gas and severe interference with communications.

The Frontex Agency coordinates and supports search and rescue (SAR) operations at sea, alongside Member State authorities, using tools such as drones and aircrafts to monitor vulnerable vessels and alert coordination centres. It is well known that Frontex has the task of supporting and coordinating Member States in the surveillance of external borders, acting in accordance with fundamental rights. In particular, Article 3(2) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1896 explicitly foresees “search and rescue operations for persons in distress at sea” as part of Frontex's current mandate. For these reasons, we ask for urgent action, together with all the institutions of the European Union, to activate Frontex resources in order to prevent further attacks and ensure immediate protection for all citizens on board the vessels by extensively applying Frontex regulation.

The European Agency's ships must guard the vessels of the Global Sumud Flotilla in order to guarantee protection for the European citizens on board and prevent new and probable attacks by the Israeli navy.

We cannot remain silent in front of the genocide perpetrated by the State of Israel, which is now targeting European citizens committed to bringing humanitarian aid and breaking the criminal siege.

Sincerely,

Danilo Della Valle