

Ursula von der Leyen  
**President of the European Commission**  
António Costa  
**President of the European Council**  
Kaja Kallas  
**High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**

**Subject:** Urgent action needed to respond to the forceful interception of the Global Sumud Flotilla carrying humanitarian aid to Gaza

Dear President von der Leyen,  
Dear President Costa,  
Dear High Representative Kallas,

We are writing to you to ask for immediate action to respond to Israel's illegal and forceful interception of the humanitarian Global Sumud Flotilla and detention of some of its over 500 peaceful volunteers, including members of the European Parliament, in international waters. The Flotilla carries nothing but humanitarian aid, to break the siege of Gaza and provide starving Palestinians with much needed supplies.

The interception of the flotilla is a grave violation of international law and humanitarian principles, and the EU needs to unequivocally and publicly condemn this attack on peaceful activists and elected officials. The Israeli government will have to be held accountable.

It is unacceptable that volunteers have risked their lives while the European Union only takes cautious steps to respond to the clear growing evidence that a genocide is being committed in Gaza, while the full annexation of the West Bank by Israel is on the horizon.

We urge you to:

- Publicly condemn Israel's illegal and forceful interception of the humanitarian Global Sumud Flotilla, which is a blatant violation of international law and shows a regrettable lack of respect of Israeli authorities for the European Parliament and the work of its elected officials.
- Demand the immediate release of the activists.
- Demand the free passage for the remaining boats of the flotilla and ask EU Member States to provide immediate maritime protection in order to uphold Europe's duty to safeguard humanitarian missions.
- Act on the European Parliament's demands made in its resolution "on Gaza at breaking point: EU action to combat famine, the urgent need to release hostages and move towards a two-state solution" adopted on 11 September 2025.

Yours sincerely,

Iratxe García Pérez, President S&D Group  
Bas Eickhout, Co-President Greens/EFA Group  
Terry Reintke, Co-President Greens/EFA Group  
Manon Aubry, Co-President The Left Group  
Martin Schirdewan, Co-President The Left Group