

**To:**

**Mrs Ursula VON DER LEYEN, President,**  
**Mr Magnus BRUNNER, Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration,**  
**European Commission**  
**Brussels**

*Subject: Urgent Request to Trigger the Visa Suspension Mechanism (Regulation (EU) 2025/2441) for the State of Israel*

*Brussels, 19 February 2026*

Dear President von der Leyen,  
Dear Commissioner Brunner,

We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, write to express our grave concern regarding the ongoing situation in Gaza and the West Bank, where persistent and systematic violations of international law by Israel—including international human rights law and international humanitarian law—continue unabated and require an urgent response from the European Union, including in the field of visa policy.

Since the entry into force on 30 December 2025 of Regulation (EU) 2025/2441 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending the *visa suspension mechanism* (the “Regulation”), we firmly believe that it is not only the Union’s legal obligation, but also its moral responsibility, to act when the relevant conditions are met.

The Regulation provides that the European Commission may trigger the visa suspension mechanism where there is a deterioration in the Union’s external relations with a visa-exempt third country caused by serious breaches of the principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations, grave violations of fundamental freedoms, obligations deriving from international human rights law or international humanitarian law, serious breaches of international law and international legal standards, or non-compliance with international court decisions and rulings.

We believe that Israel’s conduct and actions in Gaza, the West Bank, and Lebanon, as outlined below, give rise to serious concern and require a decisive response from the EU institutions, namely:

- ***Widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure and significant civilian casualties in Gaza, where, despite the ceasefire of 10 October 2025, more than 488 Palestinians have reportedly been killed, including at least 100 children, and where Israel has reportedly violated the ceasefire agreement more than 1,200 times, according to the Gaza authorities;***

- *Severe restrictions on humanitarian access, leading to critical shortages of essential services and life-saving aid;*
- *Repeated reports of disproportionate use of force and the imposition of collective punishment on civilian populations;*
- *Ongoing settlement expansion and forced evictions in the West Bank, in contravention of relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and the Geneva Conventions; at least 49 Palestinians have reportedly been killed in the West Bank during the same period, according to OCHA;*
- *The demolition of the UNRWA headquarters compound in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood of occupied East Jerusalem;*
- *The Israeli government's move to register land in the West Bank as "state property," amounting to effective annexation contrary to international law, with severe consequences for the dispossession of Palestinians from their land;*
- *Israel's recent law on NGO registration, the measures of which threaten to halt vital humanitarian operations and the delivery of life-saving assistance at scale by the end of the month;*
- *Reports by the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) that Israel has violated the ceasefire in Lebanon more than 10,000 times since November 2024.*

Taken together, these actions constitute serious and ongoing violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. These developments have been repeatedly documented by credible international bodies, including United Nations human rights mechanisms and independent legal experts.

In light of the above, it is evident that the conditions for triggering the visa suspension mechanism under Regulation (EU) 2025/2441 are met with respect to the State of Israel.

We therefore urge the Commission:

- *to trigger the visa suspension mechanism with regards to the State of Israel and thereby ensuring that EU visa policy is aligned with the Union's fundamental values and its obligations under international law.*

The entry into force of the revised Regulation on 30 December 2025 marks a new phase in EU visa policy. In this context, it is regrettable and concerning that the Commission adopted its 8th Report under the Visa Suspension Mechanism only on 19 December 2025—just 11 days before the revised mechanism entered into force and following its final adoption and signature in the European Parliament on 26 November 2025.

We therefore *also* urge the Commission:

- *to thoroughly and without delay assess, under the revised visa suspension mechanism, any deterioration in the Union's external relations with third countries listed in Annex II of Regulation (EU) 2018/1806, and*

- *to report to the European Parliament and the Council on the findings of such an assessment.*

It is our firm conviction that the European Union must uphold its legal and moral commitments to human rights, respect for international humanitarian law, and the protection of civilian lives.

Triggering the visa suspension mechanism in this context would constitute a proportionate, legally sound, and value-based response to persistent non-compliance with international obligations that directly affect peace, security, and human dignity.

We thank you for your attention to this critically important matter and remain ready to engage constructively with you and your services to support the necessary evaluation.

Yours sincerely,

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