

Brussels 26 JUL. 2017
A(2017)3186512 -3644550

To all MEP signatories of the letter regarding the urgent situation in the Gaza Strip

Dear Colleagues,

I would hereby like to thank you for your letter of 23 June 2017, whereby you express your concern about the situation in the Gaza Strip. You refer, in particular, to the electricity shortages and their possible consequences on the already difficult humanitarian situation. You equally make reference to the recent decision by the Palestinian Authority (PA) to cut funding to the Hamas-led *de facto* administration and the subsequent Israeli decision to cut the supply of electricity by 40%.

Please rest assured that I am following the latest developments in the Gaza Strip and the deteriorating humanitarian situation very closely.

The crisis that is unfolding is of political nature and must be solved by the three parties involved, the *de facto* administration, the PA, and the Israeli government. At the same time, I concur with you that the population of Gaza should not pay the price for this political stalemate. All the three parties are responsible for finding a solution and halt the suffering of those living in Gaza.

The EEAS, together with DG ECHO of the European Commission and with the Office of the European Union Representative in Jerusalem, are carefully monitoring the humanitarian situation. I would underline the fact that we are continuing to provide humanitarian assistance, in particular to the most vulnerable families. We are equally continuing to support the activities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in Gaza. Their services, including their emergency aid, are of critical importance in the current situation.

I would also like to recall that we discussed the situation in Gaza with all key stakeholders at the spring meeting of the Ad-hoc Liaison Committee, which the EU hosted on 4 May 2017 in Brussels. Already then, we have urged all parties to refrain from taking action that would further exacerbate the situation.

Yours sincerely,



Federica Mogherini