

To the estimated attention of:

Kaja Kallas, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament

Belen Martinez Carbonell, Secretary General of the European External Action Service (EEAS)

Aivo Orav, Ambassador and Head of the European Union Delegation to Türkiye

We hereby wish to express our deep concern regarding the recent developments involving the humanitarian missions of the Global Sumud Flotilla, the Freedom Flotilla, and the Thousand Madleens, as well as the activists on board the vessels.

We have learned of the military seizure operation carried out by the Israeli armed forces in international waters near Crete, and of the detention of several activists, followed by the transfer to Israel of two individuals who are currently being held without any formal charges having been brought against them.

In particular, we are deeply alarmed by statements circulated by the Israeli authorities, which appear to suggest the possible use of the vessels involved for the transport of weapons. Such allegations risk discrediting and delegitimizing the mission by constructing a distorted narrative that shifts its nature from a humanitarian and non-violent initiative to a hostile operation.

In light of the presence on board of numerous Italian and European citizens, whose good faith, integrity, and humanitarian commitment we fully trust, we consider it our duty to convey their complete willingness to cooperate with the European Institutions and with any competent independent body, in order to ensure maximum transparency regarding the contents of the vessels and to verify that they are carrying exclusively humanitarian aid intended for the civilian population of Gaza.

We believe, in particular, that an independent and impartial inspection of the vessels could appropriately take place in Turkey, toward which the vessels are currently headed, before the continuation of their journey to Gaza. Such an inspection, coordinated by European bodies, would in fact help dispel any insinuations regarding the nature of the mission and contribute to easing the tensions that have arisen.

In this context, your intervention aimed at promoting and coordinating an independent and impartial verification would be welcomed with the utmost cooperation by the participants in the mission and would represent an important contribution to the protection of international law, freedom of navigation, and the safeguarding of civilian humanitarian initiatives.

Furthermore, given the sensitivity of the situation, aggravated by a particularly dangerous context, we believe it is essential that the European institutions also guarantee full diplomatic support for the mission, both during its stay in Turkey and throughout the continuation of its journey. We therefore ask for your concrete and timely commitment to ensuring all the necessary political, diplomatic, and protective guarantees for the successful outcome of the mission and for the safety of all those involved.

Trusting in your prompt attention to this matter, we remain at your disposal for questions and inquiries.

Yours sincerely,

MEP Benedetta Scuderi (Greens/EFA)
MEP Ilaria Salis (The Left)
MEP Cecilia Strada (S&D)
MEP Cristina Guarda (Greens/EFA)
MEP Mimmo Lucano (The Left)
MEP Leoluca Orlando (Greens/EFA)
MEP Ignazio Marino (Greens/EFA)
MEP Giuseppe Antoci (The Left)
MEP Danilo Della Valle (The Left)
MEP Mario Furore (The Left)
MEP Carolina Morace (The Left)
MEP Valentina Palmisano (The Left)
MEP Gaetano Pedullà (The Left)
MEP Dario Tamburrano (The Left)
MEP Pasquale Tridico (The Left)
MEP Brando Benifei (S&D)
MEP Annalisa Corrado (S&D)
MEP Sandro Ruotolo (S&D)
MEP Marco Tarquinio (S&D)