



To the President of the European Council,
António Costa

To the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,
Kaja Kallas

Bruxelles, 21/05/2026

Request for EU restrictive measures and travel ban against Israeli Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir following his public mocking of detained activists and ongoing violations of international law.

Dear President Costa,

Dear High Representative Kallas,

We write to you with a sense of profound outrage and urgency. The recent, horrifying video footage showing the Israeli Minister of National Security, Itamar Ben-Gvir, openly mocking and deriding the peaceful activists of the "Global Sumud Flotilla"—who are currently being unlawfully detained and subjected to degrading treatment in Ashdod—represents a level of ruthlessness and inhumanity that the European Union can no longer ignore.

These unarmed civilians, comprising hundreds of international human rights defenders and peaceful volunteers from across the globe, were illegally intercepted and abducted by Israeli military forces in international waters. Delivering humanitarian aid is not a crime; kidnapping peaceful volunteers and treating them with such shameless disregard for human dignity is a severe violation of international maritime and humanitarian law.

Minister Ben-Gvir's despicable behavior in the face of this illegal detention is the reflection of a systematic political project that has devastated the Gaza Strip, deliberately starved a civilian population, and transformed absolute impunity into a system of governance. International law requires that those responsible answer to justice. As the International Criminal Court (ICC) proceeds with its mandate to evaluate the crimes committed by figures such as Benjamin Netanyahu, Itamar Ben-Gvir, and Israel Katz, the European Union must take coherent political action.

To address this open contempt for legality and the direct humiliation of international civil society, we urgently demand that you invoke the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime, widely known as the European Magnitsky Act. Minister Ben-Gvir's continuous incitement to violence, backing of illegal settlement expansions, and open celebration of human rights abuses fit precisely within the criteria established by this global framework. We call on you to take immediate action within your respective mandates to propose and implement an asset freeze and an EU-wide travel ban against him, effectively declaring his presence unacceptable within European territory. Furthermore, we urge the European institutions to publicly and unequivocally condemn the illegal seizure of the Flotilla and to reaffirm the EU's unwavering support for the International Criminal Court, ensuring that there is no political cover or impunity for those who systematically violate international law.

The European Union has a fundamental duty to defend the rule of law, protect human rights defenders, and utilize its global sanctions mechanisms to hold political leaders accountable when they act as criminals. We expect a prompt and decisive response.

Sincerely,

Danilo Della Valle – Estrella Galàn

Mélissa Camara

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Dario Tamburrano

Maria Zacharia

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Members of the European Parliament