

To: Ms Ursula von der Leyen

President of the European Commission

cc: HRVP Kaja Kallas, Commissioner Šefčovič, COREPER II ambassadors

11 September 2026

Subject: Urgent call for a Commission legislative proposal to ban EU trade with Israel's illegal settlements.

Madam President,

We are writing to you ahead of your State of the European Union address and following the Joint Foreign Ministers' Statement on the Two-State Solution of 8 September. We urge you to finally bring forward a legislative proposal to ban EU trade with Israel's illegal settlements in the occupied territories.

The European Union has long claimed a leadership role in the region, as one of the key backers of the Two-State Solution. Yet it is the United Kingdom and Canada, two of our key partners that have committed to act in support of this goal by banning trade with settlements. Within the EU, France has now committed to do the same, joining other member states that have already adopted or are moving to adopt national trade bans. Joint and consistent EU action is therefore needed.

As President Macron, Prime Minister Burnham, and Prime Minister Carney wrote: *"A two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is critical for peace, stability and security in the Middle East and beyond. It is a fundamental national interest for Canada, France, and the UK to protect and secure this outcome."*

The same goes for the European Union, which must now stand together with its key allies committed to international rule of law. The urgency of action has only grown since the Israeli government published a tender for the E1 settlement on 18 August, breaching a long-standing EU red line.

As the guardian of the EU treaties, which requires observance of international law in the EU's external action (Articles 3(5), 21 TEU), the Commission must propose an appropriate Regulation without further delay. Partial measures, such as raising tariffs or enhancing the current differentiation policy, do not meet the obligations laid out by the ICJ and would extend the EU's non-compliance with international law.

As previously outlined in a [letter](#) sent by 71 MEPs in July, the Council Legal Service has confirmed that Article 207 TFEU can serve as the legal basis for such a measure, a conclusion shared by more than [100 legal scholars](#) and by [dozens of human rights organisations and trade unions](#).

Our citizens demand action. While our credibility on the international stage has already been damaged through inaction, a legislative proposal will be a positive step in the right direction.

We therefore urge the Commission to propose the necessary Regulation and would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely,

1. Barry Andrews (Renew, Ireland)
2. Tineke Strik (Greens/EFA, The Netherlands)
3. Cecilia Strada (S&D, Italy)
4. Sean Kelly (EPP, Ireland)