
EU Foreign Ministers discuss Middle East

EU Foreign Ministers discussed the situation in the Middle East during their informal meeting in Bremen at the weekend. German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier stated at the final press conference that "since the middle of last year Europe has proved that it no longer merely comments on development in the region" and noted that Europe's commitment had become visible both in the securing of Israel's northern border and in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

He emphasized the revitalization of the Middle East Quartet, which to date has met twice, and revealed that the option of a further meeting in the region, possibly involving Arab interlocutors, was discussed. With its voice in the Middle East Quartet, Europe will continue to work intensively on the basis of a two-state settlement, the Minister noted.

Regarding contacts with members of the government of national unity, Minister Steinmeier said that the EU wanted to meet those government representatives who accepted non-violence, the agreements concluded with Israel, and Israel's right to exist. This was the basis of the shared understanding, Dr Steinmeier said, although no concrete decisions were taken.