

Rocket strikes targeting the Israeli territory from Gaza (December 27, 2008)

Statement by the presidency of the Council of the European Union

The Presidency of the Council of the European Union, who on 24 December condemned the rocket strikes targeting the Israeli territory from Gaza, expresses its most serious concern at the escalating violence in the Gaza Strip and deplores the very great number of civilian casualties.

The Presidency extends its deepest sympathy to the victims' families and relatives and friends.

The Presidency condemns Israeli air raids and rocket strikes from Gaza. It calls for their immediate end. It condemns the disproportionate use of force.

The Presidency of the Council of the European Union recalls that no military solution can prevail in Gaza and calls for the establishment of a lasting truce. It encourages the efforts of neighbouring countries, particularly those of Egypt, which could help reach this goal.

The Presidency of the Council of the European Union, who reaffirms its commitment to the full respect of international humanitarian law under all circumstances, urges the reopening of all border crossing points, immediate resumption of deliveries of humanitarian aid and fuel, and unrestricted access for international and humanitarian organizations, diplomats and journalists.