

To: **Charles Michel**, President of the European Council

CC:

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

Josep Borrell, High-Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and security policy/Vice-President of the European Commission



Brussels, 7 May 2024

Dear President Michel,
Dear President von der Leyen,
Dear High Representative Borrell,

The recently launched Israeli military campaign on Rafah and closure of two vital entry points for aid desperately calls for consequent EU action. Therefore, by means of this urgent appeal, we call on you to convene as soon as possible a meeting of the European Council to discuss the consequences of the invasion and impose EU sanctions against Israel.

As you are most aware, a continuation of the Israeli invasion in Rafah will have unprecedented humanitarian consequences. An estimated 1.4 million people are forcibly displaced and currently sheltering in Rafah. A credible evacuation plan is absent, and previously declared "safe zones" and "humanitarian zones" have been targeted by the Israeli military in the past.

Moreover, the closure of the Rafah and Kerem Shalom crossings - which have accounted for 70% of the total aid delivery into Gaza since 7 October - amounts to even further deterioration of the already devastating humanitarian situation for the people in Gaza.

Repeatedly, European leaders condemned the intended attack on Rafah. At its last meeting on 21-22 March, the European Council urged the Israeli government not to undertake a ground operation in Rafah. Commission President von der Leyen has stated during the EU election debate in Maastricht that an invasion of Rafah would be "completely unacceptable" and that she, in this event, would "sit down with Member States and act". We urge you to live up to that promise and convene an urgent meeting of the European Council to discuss the EU response to the events in Rafah.

A firm international response is needed more than ever, and the EU should take all measures within its remit to force Israel's compliance with international law. Sanctions against Israel are the only adequate response to this horrendous and reckless military campaign in Rafah and the rest of the Gaza strip, and would be in line with the EU's obligations to uphold the provisional measures imposed by the ICJ.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

Tineke Strik, Greens/EFA
Thijs Reuten, S&D

Bernard Guetta, Renew Europe
Mounir Satouri, Greens/EFA
Evin Incir, S&D
Sirpa Pietikäinen, EPP
Malin Björk, The Left
Saskia Bricmont, Greens/EFA
Matjaž Nemec, S&D
Barry Andrews, Renew Europe
Brando Benifei, S&D
Alice Bah Kuhnke, Greens/EFA
Karen Melchior, Renew Europe
Miguel Urban Crespo, The Left
Isabel Santos, S&D
Grace O'Sullivan, Greens/EFA
Idoia Villanueva Ruiz, The Left
Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Renew Europe
Piernicola Pedicini, Greens/EFA
Billy Kelleher, Renew Europe
Heidi Hautala, Greens/EFA
Domenec Ruiz Devesa, S&D
Irena Joveva, Renew Europe
Margrete Auken, Greens/EFA
Milan Brglez, S&D
Bas Eickhout, Greens/EFA
Mohammed Chahim, S&D
Kim van Sparrentak, Greens/EFA
Lara Wolters, S&D
Agnes Jongerius, S&D
Paul Tang, S&D
Vera Tax, S&D
Anabela Rodrigues, The Left
José Gusmão, The Left
Samira Rafaela, Renew Europe
Sara Matthieu, Greens/EFA
Alviina Alametsä, Greens/EFA
Sophie in 't Veld, Renew Europe
François Thiollet, Greens/EFA
Kateřina Konečná, The Left
Rosa D'Amato, Greens/EFA
Klemen Grošelj, Renew Europe
Margarida Marques, S&D
João Albuquerque, S&D
Petros Kokkalis, The Left
Mónica Silvana González, S&D
Maria Arena, S&D
Ciarán Cuffe, Greens/EFA
Nikolaj Villumsen, The Left
Ana Miranda, Greens/EFA
Marc Botenga, The Left

Kathleen van Brempt, S&D
Alex Agius Saliba, S&D
François Alfonsi, Greens/EFA
Ville Niinistö, Greens/EFA
Pär Holmgren, Greens/EFA
Jakop Dalunde, Greens/EFA
Helene Fritzon, S&D
Carina Ohlsson, S&D
Ilan De Basso, S&D
Linus Glanzelius, S&D
Sylvie Guillaume, S&D
Marina Mesure, The Left
Leïla Chaïbi, The Left
Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield, Greens/EFA
Francisco Guerreiro, Greens/EFA
Diana Riba I Giner, Greens/EFA