

AMV text on Israel/Palestine by group of individual members of DiEM25 (11 signatories)

Intro

The hour has come for DiEM25 to adopt a clear, tenable strategy on the Israeli-Palestinian impasse. We must endorse positions that also stand an actual chance of effecting real change, and of mobilizing existing public opinion within Europe and the world at large.

Let us use the powerful means at our disposal. Let us activate the tools of international and European law, and mobilize international public opinion, pushing for Israeli withdrawal of its occupying forces and accompanying illegal settlements as precondition for any genuine peace negotiations.

Europe stands out as Israel's major trading partner, and as Israel's secondary supplier of arms after the United States. The EU thus far invests in both Israel and in projects of piece-meal reconstruction in the occupied Palestinian territories (OPT), picking up the bill whenever the situation of permanent conflict erupts, as it has once again in Gaza and in Sheikh Jarrah.

Europe is home to the International Court of Justice in the Hague and the International Criminal Court— institutions undermined by the EU's endorsement of illegal wars and campaigns of annexation, as Israel refuses to cooperate with ICC war crimes probes, and has boycotted UN human rights inspectors since 2013.ⁱ Important hard-won legal victories benefitting the Palestinian plight must at last be used toward ensuring a progressive future for negotiations between Israelis, Palestinians and their neighbours.

Ending the occupation remains our first long-overdue priority.

Only a permanent end of the illegal military occupation and state of siege in Gaza, East Jerusalem and the West Bank, can lay the groundwork **allowing genuine peace negotiations on equal terms**. The occupation today acts as the frontline of permanent conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. **The EU must cease all participation that enables the machinery of the military occupation. The plan outlined in this AMV is where we start.**

DiEM25 can use all activist means necessary, to take European politicians to task for not upholding these decisions. Therefore, the following points are proposed:

1. The EU must cut off the arms supply and military cooperation with Israel and regional actors immediately. DiEM25 can lobby and pressure EU member states to uphold and enforce their own guidelines (e.g. enshrined in the national laws of both Germany and France) which prohibit arms exports or security cooperation with countries embroiled in the Middle Eastern conflicts, e.g. the Egyptian El Sisi regime and Saudi Arabia.ⁱⁱ

2. Fight to end trade with settlements. According to reports from the floor of the EU parliament trade with "settlements are **illegal** and breach the highest norms of international law."ⁱⁱⁱ As the EU is Israel's major trade partner, a line drawn on dealings with illegal settlements, remains a pressing European moral and political obligation.

3. Enforcement of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 2334. DiEM25 urges for the enforcement of these resolutions, demanding immediate withdrawal of the Israeli army from occupied Palestinian territories (West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem); an immediate end of the blockade of the Gaza strip; a withdrawal of all settlers, and a "just settlement" for the Palestinian refugee question (refer to point 7 below); and, a return of occupied territories internationally recognized as parts of

Lebanon and Syria.^{iv} Make these resolutions serve as minimal guidelines for EU member states' future dealings with Palestine and Israel.

4. Clarify status of Palestinian refugees currently in Europe. Currently, most EU countries will not accord Palestinian refugees an equal refugee status as granted to recent Syrian arrivals. This even applies to the estimated 100,000 Syrian-Palestinian war refugees who, lacking Syrian citizenship, recently fled to Europe from the other ongoing wars in Syria.^v DiEM25 calls for putting an end to all judicial limbos currently imposed on Palestinian refugees in the EU. Recognizing Palestinian refugees' difficult plight in Europe, requires the EU to acknowledge the reality of the occupation Europe has endorsed.

5. Support the Middle East Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (MENWFZ). DiEM25 urges the EU to break its longstanding silence, and therefore complicity with US and Israeli rejectionism on the matter of a nuclear weapons-free zone in the Middle East. DiEM25 insists that international nuclear inspectors should be able to investigate Israeli nuclear arsenals.^{vi}

6. Demand an end to a US-dominated "peace process". The time has come for another country or coalition to replace the biased US role of prime mediator. The US is the foremost enabler of the US-Israeli-Palestinian conflict. New alternative intermediary negotiators and platforms should be chosen in a democratic process elected by diverse representatives of the Palestinian and Israeli societies. Europe should take independent initiatives urging the US to join.

7. Just settlement for the Palestine refugees, first defined in the UN General Assembly Resolution 194, remains a crucial negotiating tool the Palestinians cannot be forced to give up except on their terms. The landmark resolution, dating from the beginning of the Palestine refugee crisis, states "refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbours should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date, and that compensation should be paid for the property of those choosing not to return and for loss of or damage to property which, under principles of international law or equity, should be made good by the Governments or authorities responsible." These requirements apply to descendants of refugees, because as is the case with other protracted refugee situations (e.g. Afghanistan, Somalia), the children and descendants of Palestine refugees also qualify as refugees until a durable solution has been found.^{vii}

Signatories:

Arturo Desimone (member of DSC1 Peace and International Policy), **Matt McDonald** (member of Task Force Peace and International Policy), **Robert Wittkuhn** (member of Task Force Peace and International Policy), **Aleksandar Novakovic** (member of Task Force Peace and International Policy), **Eva Magdalena Stambøl** (member of Task Force Peace and International Policy), **Hans-Joachim Körting** (member of DSC1 Peace and International Policy), **Yunus Yeniden** (member of DSC1 Peace and International Policy), **Franz Piribauer** (member of DSC1 Peace and International Policy), **Jacob Lim** (member of DSC1 Peace and International Policy), **Marcel Stilger** (member of DSC1 Peace and International Policy), **Noam Chomsky** (member of DiEM25's Advisory Panel and member of the Progressive International's Council)

Procedural context

Our AMV text is a result of year-long drafting process that involved members of DSC1 Peace and International Policy and Task Force for Peace and International Policy. It also needs to be seen as response to the AMV text by the CC. Our proposal, we hope you will see, goes beyond the confines of the one- vs. two-state debate.

-
- i <https://www.ishr.ch/news/israel-decision-boycott-human-rights-review-threatens-rule-law>
 - ii As President, Ursula Von der Leyen cannot go on justifying security cooperation with Israel as she did in her role as German Defense Minister, when she admitted to her state's violating its own rules because of "Germany's special relationship with Israel". <https://www.dw.com/en/a-special-case-the-german-israeli-security-cooperation/a-18444585>
 - iii https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-8-2018-002892_EN.html
 - iv Sheikh Jarrah reminds us to insist on a common European position must also uphold UNSCR 2334, "Condemning all measures aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status of the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, including the construction and expansion of settlements, transfer of Israeli settlers, confiscation of land, demolition of homes and displacement of Palestinian civilians, in violation of international humanitarian law and relevant resolutions".
 - v 100.000 is a 2017 estimate <http://www.ror-n.org/blog/palestinian-refugees-from-syria-and-their-fate-in-europe>
 - vi In 2019 the UN secretary-general convened an annual conference dedicated to the "elaboration of a legally binding treaty establishing a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction." The pursuit of a MENWFZ dates back decades, with its first major milestone being a 1974 UN General Assembly resolution. Inspection of Israel's nuclear arsenal would potentially remove obstacles to the Iranian nuclear deal.
 - vii <https://ohrh.law.ox.ac.uk/palestinian-refugees-and-the-right-of-return-in-international-law/>