



To Mrs. Ashton
High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Brussels, 18th of October 2012

Subject: III Freedom Flotilla to Gaza Strip

As in the last two years a new Freedom Flotilla wants to repeat the solidarity project with the Palestinian people. The Flotilla is sailing towards the Gaza Strip to bring tonnes of humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people, trying to break the unfair blockade imposed by Israel.

The blockade is a violation of international law and of the fundamental human rights of the civilian population in Gaza. The blockade has devastating humanitarian consequences for more than 1.6 million people, most of them children.

A tall ship built in the 1920s, the Estelle sailed several weeks ago from Sweden, before stopping along the Mediterranean coast. On board the aid ship are reconstruction materials and other humanitarian goods.

On the 31st May 2010 a convoy of six ships, known as the first Freedom Flotilla, was attacked by Israel soldiers, with the result of nine dead people and many injuries. In 2011 the Freedom Flotilla with several MEPs from the European Parliament on board was partially blocked in Greece and the other part was illegally retained by the Israeli authorities, including MEP Paul Murphy.

These attacks can not set a precedent as the ship is loaded with the solidarity of thousands of European citizens to the Palestinian people, bringing humanitarian aid to the biggest open air jail in the world of more than one and a half million people in 360 square kilometres.

We would like to remind you that, European Parliament has called Israel several times 'to fulfil its obligations under international law and international humanitarian law' concerning situation in the Gaza Strip

So we, Members of the European Parliament, ask you, in your capacity as High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, to take all the appropriate measures in order to guarantee the security of the new Freedom Flotilla, as well as the integrity of the European citizens who are travelling in the Flotilla.

Furthermore, we fully encourage you to ensure that EU makes all the efforts to push Israel to fulfil the International Humanitarian Law and to put end to blockade of the Gaza Strip.

List of signatories:

MEP **Willy Meyer**, Vice-chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (GUE/NGL, Spain)

MEP **Paul Murphy**, Member of the Committee on International Trade (GUE/NLG, Ireland)

MEP **Jacky Hénin**, Member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (GUE/NGL, France)

MEP **Bart Staes**, Vice-chair of the Committee on Budgetary Control (GREENS/EFA, Belgium)

MEP **Nicolaos Chountis**, Member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (GUE/NGL, Greece)

MEP **Sonia Alfano**, Chair of the Special Committee on organised crime, corruption and money laundering (ALDE, Italy)

MEP **Ana Miranda**, Member of the Committee on Regional Development (GREENS/EFA, Spain)

MEP **Jill Evans**, Member substitute of the Delegation for relations with the Palestinian Legislative Council (GREENS/EFA, United Kingdom)

MEP **Jean Lambert**, Chair of the Delegation for relations with the countries of South Asia (GREENS/EFA, United Kingdom)

MEP **Margrete Auken**, Vice-Chair of the Delegation for relations with the Palestinian Legislative Council (GREENS/EFA, Denmark)

MEP **Marisa Matias**, Vice-Chair of the Delegation for relations with the Mashreq countries (GUE/NGL, Portugal)

MEP **Alda Sousa**, Member of the Delegation for relations with the Maghreb countries and the Arab Maghreb Union (GUE/NGL, Portugal)

MEP **Marita Ulvskog**, Member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (S&D/, Sweden)

MEP **Satu Hassi**, Member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (GREENS/EFA, Finland)

MEP **Raúl Romeva**, Member of the Committee on Fisheries (GREENS/EFA, Spain)

MEP **Åsa Westlund**, Member of the Delegation for relations with the Palestinian Legislative Council (S&D, Sweden),

MEP **Kyriacos Triantaphyllides**, Vice-Chair of the Delegation for relations with the Palestinian Legislative Council (GUE/NGL, Cyprus)

MEP **Sabine Wils**, Member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (GUE/NGL, Germany)

MEP **Gianni Vattimo**, Vice-Chair Delegation to the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (ALDE, Italy)

MEP **Karim Zeribi**, Member of the Delegation for relations with the Maghreb countries and the Arab Maghreb Union (GREENS/EFA, France)

MEP **Ivo Vajgl**, Member of the Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (ALDE, Slovenia)

MEP **Martina Anderson**, Member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (GUE/NGL, Ireland)

MEP **Søren Bo Søndergaard**, Member of the Committee on Budgetary Control (GUE/NGL, Denmark)

MEP **Marie-Christine Vergiat**, Member of the Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Delegation for relations with the Maghreb countries and the Arab Maghreb Union (GUE/NGL, France)

MEP **Patrick Le Hyaric**, Member of the Delegation for relations with the Palestinian Legislative Council (GUE/NGL, France)

MEP **Takis Hadjigeorgiou**, Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (GUE/NGL, Cyprus)