

## EU Officials Urge Action Against West Bank Settlements



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More than 400 former officials from the European Union have called for urgent measures to deter

Israel from advancing settlement plans in the occupied West Bank, according to a joint letter.

The signatories, including former ministers, ambassadors and senior policymakers, urged EU

institutions and member states to impose targeted sanctions on individuals and entities linked to

settlement activities. Proposed measures include visa bans and restrictions on conducting

business within the bloc.

Particular concern was raised over the E1 settlement project, long criticized internationally for potentially undermining the territorial continuity of a future Palestinian state. The officials warned that continued expansion could further weaken prospects for a negotiated two-state solution.

Recent data from Palestinian authorities highlighted ongoing developments on the ground, including demolition operations affecting homes, agricultural facilities and livelihoods across the West Bank. The letter noted that settlement plans have advanced despite years of diplomatic engagement aimed at halting such actions.

The appeal also called for coordinated discussions at upcoming EU forums, stressing the need for a unified and timely response. Prominent signatories include former Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt and former Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven.