



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3222

June 18, 2026

The Honorable Ursula von der Leyen
President
European Commission
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels, Belgium

Dear President von der Leyen,

I write to you today regarding the draft conclusions of the EU Leader’s Meeting being held today and tomorrow. As the Founder and Chair of the Congressional Friends of Judea and Samaria Caucus, I am gravely concerned about some of the items in the released draft conclusions for this meeting. I urge you and the various member states to strongly reconsider adopting this language.

First and foremost, I strongly oppose the proposed language that invites the Council to consider “restrictive measures” against Israeli Ministers. Like the various EU member states, Israel is a democratic nation that has not only the right, but the responsibility to defend its own borders. The idea that the EU would sanction Ministers in the Israeli government for performing such basic responsibilities of state governance would be laughable if it were not so serious. I strongly condemn the EU’s efforts to sanction members of the Israeli government and implore the EU Council and support Israel in its fight against terrorism, instead of attacking Israel.

Second, I strongly oppose the language threatening businesses who assist in the construction of the E1 settlement, which has been authorized by the Israeli government. The EU should promote further economic cooperation between member states and companies and Israel, not less. This discouragement of economic activity in Judea and Samaria is precisely in line with the antisemitic Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement. Instead of threatening companies that do business with Israel, the EU should join the U.S. in passing anti-boycott legislation that prevents companies and rogue member states from imposing unilateral sanctions and boycotts against Israel. The language included in the draft conclusions document would not only harm the lone democracy in the Middle East, but it would harm EU member states and EU companies that operate in the region. Notably, this language also has the potential to negatively impact U.S. companies operating in the region, which is completely unacceptable.

Finally, I strongly oppose the language calling for new sanctions on organizations operating in Judea and Samaria. While violence is never acceptable, the notion that the actions of a few rogue individuals merits sanctions against organizations operating in Israel and Judea and Samaria is ridiculous. If the EU wishes to cooperate with Israel and support its efforts to reduce crime, I believe that would be a welcome and constructive step. Instead, the draft conclusions indicate

that the EU wishes to sanction organizations supporting individuals living in Judea and Samaria, which I strongly oppose. Additionally, these potential sanctions could harm U.S. nonprofit organizations that operate in Judea and Samaria which is deeply troubling.

I would also like to remind you and the Council about Section 999 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 – commonly referred to as the Ribicoff Amendment – which reflects the United States’ bipartisan commitment to opposing foreign boycotts against friendly nations, particularly those aimed at Israel. Under this law, the Treasury Department is required to maintain a list of countries that condition commercial participation on compliance with an unsanctioned international boycott. Inclusion on this list imposes specific tax reporting requirements and potential penalties for U.S. individuals and businesses engaged in certain activities in those countries that adopt such boycotts. I would strongly urge the EU and its member states to consider the implications of adopting such boycotts, particularly as it relates to this important provision of U.S. law and the potential negative impacts it may have on U.S. businesses and organizations.

Overall, the draft conclusions for the EU Council meeting demonstrates a desire to attack Israel and those living in Judea and Samaria, instead of standing with the lone democracy in the region, and a fellow Western country combatting terrorism throughout the region. Additionally, it has the serious potential to harm U.S. businesses and organizations, which would require a strong and forceful economic response by the United States. I strongly urge the EU to reconsider these provisions before proceeding and hope to see them removed from any resolutions adopted by the Council.

Please know, I stand ready to work with you all on these important issues and hope the EU will come to its senses and abandon these proposals.

I appreciate you taking the time to review my concerns and look forward to seeing the outcome of this week’s meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claudia Tenney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress

CC. The Honorable Jovita Neliupšienė, Ambassador of the European Union to the United States of America