



Council of Ministers

The Government of Spain strengthens the arms embargo on Israel, and bans imports from illegal settlements in Palestinian territories

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The rule applies to all defence equipment and dual-use technology and includes a ban on ships and aircraft transporting fuel or material for possible military use from entering the country's ports and airspace.

Moncloa Palace, Madrid



The Minister for Economy, Trade and Business, Carlos Cuerpo, and the Minister for Education, Vocational Training, and Sports and Government Spokesperson, Pilar Alegría, during the press conference fater the Council of Ministers (Pool Moncloa / Jose Manuel Álvarez)

The Council of Ministers has approved a royal decree law with urgent measures to stop the genocide in Gaza and to support the Palestinian people . The Minister for Economy, Trade and Business, Carlos Cuerpo, framed the regulation within the Executive's commitment to respect for human rights and international humanitarian law and the pursuit of a just and lasting peace in the region.

Cuerpo recalled that almost two years have passed since the Hamas attacks of 7 October 2023 which, "as the President of the Government of Spain pointed out yesterday, we continue to condemn in the strongest terms, as well as calling for the immediate and unconditional release of the hostages". In that period, he added, there have been more than 65,000 deaths in Gaza, more than 165,000 injured and some 2 million displaced, and more than 250,000 people, including children, are at risk of malnutrition.

The minister advocated that Spain should continue to lead international efforts to act in response to this situation and increase pressure on the Israeli government, as [the President of the Government of Spain already announced](#) and [is defending at the United Nations General Assembly](#), which is being held this week in New York.

Total arms embargo and ban on imports

A first essential measure in the regulation, which must be validated by the Lower House of Parliament within 30 days, is the consolidation of the total arms embargo on Israel: exports to and imports from Israel of both defence material and dual-use products and technology are prohibited.



The Minister for Economy, Trade and Business, Carlos Cuerpo, during his speech at the press conference after the Council of Ministers | Pool Moncloa / Jose Manuel Álvarez

Secondly, the regulation includes a ban on ships and aircraft transporting fuel or material for possible military use in Israel from entering the country's ports and airspace. Carlos Cuerpo pointed out that this is an "essential input for the Israeli armed forces", which until now was not included in the regulations governing foreign trade control.

The third pillar of the decree law is a ban on the import of products originating from illegal Israeli settlements in occupied Palestinian territory. Advertising for goods originating from these settlements and services provided there is also prohibited.

The text also includes a provision to revoke authorisations currently in force on the date of entry into force of the regulation and to prohibit authorisations pending resolution.

The Minister for Economy, Trade and Business also stressed that the regulation reinforces the transparency and accountability of the government and provides for the defence of general interests in exceptional circumstances. The Executive undertakes to appear before the Lower House of Parliament on a quarterly basis to report on the application of the measures, including the possibility that the Council of Ministers may authorise a one-off derogation on an exceptional basis if national interests are affected.

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