

On October 16th, 2024, the ministers of Defence of the member states of the European Union contributing troops to UNIFIL, met by videoconference to discuss the situation in South Lebanon and the action of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, and Spain, adopted the following declaration:

« We, Member States of the European Union contributing troops to UNIFIL, express our grave concern regarding the escalation of violence along the Blue Line, and the recent incidents targeting the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) personnel and installations.

We condemn the targeting of all UNIFIL peacekeepers, in violation of the fundamental principles of international law.

We pay tribute to all UNIFIL personnel for their constant commitment and professionalism in carrying out their demanding mission and encourage the resolve of all troop contributing nations in the implementation of the mandate.

We call for the respect for international law and full implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701 to find the path to peace and stability in the region.

We recall that all actors have an obligation to take necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of UN personnel and property and to respect the inviolability of UN premises at all times.

We reiterate our entire commitment to UNIFIL, which plays a key role in fulfilling the United Nations Security Council's mandate as an impartial observer force.

We are committed to support the Lebanese Armed Forces to contribute to the restoration of the effective authority of the Lebanese State throughout its territory.

We reaffirm UNIFIL's role in contributing to humanitarian access and support for civilian populations, in supporting de-escalation as a channel of communication between the parties and, tomorrow, to the construction of a peaceful future in the region.

We will maintain close contact between all troop-contributing countries and with the United Nations. »