



The European Union could be leaning toward banning trade with Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

Foreign ministers debated various tactics to respond to the settlements on Monday at their monthly council meeting in Brussels, against the backdrop of rising violence by settlers and efforts by the government to expand settlements in the territory.

In a press conference following the meeting, the EU's foreign policy chief, Kaja Kallas, said one possibility had stood out.

"The option that got the most support was banning the trade with illegal settlements," she said. All 27 member states consider settlements in the West Bank to violate international law.

Kallas added: "We tasked the ambassadors to take this work forward, and probably will also have an extraordinary meeting on this."

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