

EU peace conference- ceasefire is the priority - Palestinian Ambassador BUDAPEST, February 02 - RIA Novosti.



The EU's talk about holding a conference on a peaceful settlement in the Middle East is a step forward, but we can talk about its prospects only after a ceasefire, which is now a priority, Palestinian Ambassador in Budapest Fadi Elhousseini told RIA Novosti. Earlier, Belgian Foreign Minister Aja Labib said before the start of a meeting of European foreign ministers in Brussels that the EU expects to hold a conference on a peace settlement in the Middle East in the foreseeable future with the participation of the EU, the USA, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the League of Arab States and the UN for launching political dialogue.

“Peace efforts, the EU, Brussels meeting... I want to say that this is a good effort to see people who rising again the issue of peace and the realization of the Palestinian state. But the priority now is the ceasefire. There are always steps "Ceasing fire is a priority, providing humanitarian aid is other priority and then rebuilding Gaza is another priority," the ambassador said. He stressed that such plans in the EU can be called development, since “for the first time

we are talking about the security of not only Israelis, but also Palestinians.”

The diplomat also recalled that for a long time the main mediator calling for a peaceful resolution of the situation in the Middle East was the United States, however, the Abraham Accords proposed by former President Donald Trump in 2020 were “totally one-sided, in totally of Israeli favors, not considering the concerns and the aspirations of Palestinians”. According to him, the peace initiative proposed by Arab and Islamic countries in 2002 was an opportunity Israel rejected.

“That's why for a long time the Palestinians called for international efforts, international peace conference to assist bringing peace to the region. That's why we welcomed any collective efforts, including the UN, the EU, and any other countries that can be ready to take part in this,” he noted.

According to him, many peacekeeping initiatives lack a clear indication of what the consequences will be “if you are averting from doing peace.”

“You need also parties who are ready and able to speak with the Israelis, so you need from here and there, that's why we always say international efforts, collective efforts, countries that are ready to speak with both parties, with the Palestinians and the Israelis. And have the ability to pressure especially the Israelis of course,” Elhousseini said