



*Commission of the Bishops' Conferences
of the European Union*

*His Beatitude Card. Pierbattista Pizzaballa
Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem
Latin Patriarchate Road
P.O.B 14152, Jerusalem 9114101*

Brussels, 19 October 2023

Your Beatitude,
Dear Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa,

I wish to express on behalf of the Bishops of COMECE (the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Union) our most sincere solidarity and prayerful closeness with you and all the people suffering from the devastating wave of violence currently unfolding in the Holy Land.

We are deeply saddened by the daily reports of the horrors of this war, and keep the victims as well as their families and communities in our prayers.

We wish to thank you, along with the Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem, for your tireless efforts in calling for peace and justice in the Holy Land, a place sacred to so many people around the world.

In unity with our Holy Father, Pope Francis, we continue to appeal to the international community, including the European Union, to make every effort to contribute to a de-escalation of the situation, while ensuring respect for international humanitarian law and for the fundamental rights of all people in the region.

We remain ready to support the efforts of the local Churches for justice and peace in the Holy Land through our mission of dialogue with the institutions of the European Union. Please do not hesitate to let us know, if we can help to transmit any particular concern to their attention.

A fraternal greeting in Christ,

✠ Mariano Crociata

*Bishop of Latina-Terracina-Sezze-Priverno
President of COMECE*