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 **Gaza facing health catastrophe- Israel must lift the blockade.**

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"The decision by the Israeli authorities to seal off Gaza and cut off the electrical supply could have very dire consequences for the future," declared **Kyriacos Triantaphyllides**, GUE/NGL Chairman of the EP delegation for relations with the PLC, following the decision by Israel to seal off all crossings into Gaza last week and cut off all power supply since Sunday.

"Life for Gazans is being made unbearable. These scare tactics have resulted in poverty, a declining health situation and human suffering on both sides of the Gaza border." he said.

"In the last ten days, the price of meat has doubled. However, the economic breakdown of the Gaza Strip means that its inhabitants no longer have a viable alternative for their everyday needs. On top of that, the lack of electricity means that hospitals are malfunctioning thus effectively increasing the risk of a health catastrophe. If this happens, Israel will have the loss of innocent lives on its conscience."

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