

Bahrain Bourse launches Listing Gateway platform

Manama

As part of Bahrain Bourse's (BHB) continuous efforts to develop the Capital Market in the Kingdom of Bahrain, BHB, a licensed exchange by the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB), announced the launch of BHB's Listing Gateway Platform, an online portal designed to streamline the filing of listing applications. The Listing Gateway platform will fully replace the current submission process, in line with BHB's digital transformation journey.

The Listing Gateway will deliver a more efficient, secure, and transparent process, enabling the Issuers to submit their listing applications for review to BHB in a streamlined and user-friendly manner. The platform aims to facilitate a seamless experience for all market participants.

The digital platform has been designed with an intuitive and



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transparent interface to offer Issuers a straightforward submission process, along with better visibility into the status of their applications. This initiative marks another significant step in BHB's efforts to advance digitalization within the financial market, reinforcing its commitment to operational excellence and innovation.

Shaikha Al Zayani, Senior Director of Listing and Disclosure, stated: "The development of the platform is another step forward in BHB's continuous drive towards digital transformation. The Listing Gateway will enhance efficiency and transparency in the submission of listing applications, ensuring more streamlined and user-friendly experience for all stakeholders."

"This initiative reflects our commitment to leveraging technology to broaden market accessibility and enable Issuers to comply with regulatory require-

ments more efficiently. By introducing this platform, we aim to deliver a seamless experience for Issuers while promoting confidence and resilience within Bahrain's capital market," Shaikha added.

The Listing Gateway is now live and accessible to

all applicants seeking to list via www.bahrainbourse.com. For more information, please contact the Listing & Disclosures Directorate on 17108782 or email ld@bahrainbourse.com.



Shaikha Al Zayani,
Senior Director
of Listing and
Disclosure

EU to gauge member states' willingness to punish Israel

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AFP | Brussels, Belgium

The EU's top diplomat said yesterday the bloc will gauge the willingness of member states to take measures against Israel, after Spain re-upped demands to suspend a cooperation deal.

Foreign ministers from the 27-nation bloc are expected to discuss the matter at a meeting in Luxembourg Tuesday after a call from Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez.

Attitudes towards Israel among key EU member states, hardened over its conduct in the war in Gaza, stiffened further after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and a new law on the



Israeli security forces (R) forcibly remove Palestinians trying to reach their land after Israeli settlers reportedly attacked local farmers working on their land, spraying them with pepper spray, near the Palestinian village of Halhoul, south of the Israel-occupied West Bank city of Hebron,

death penalty for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank.

Facing alarm at the civilian toll exacted in the Gaza war, the EU last year already put on the table a raft of potential measures to punish Israel including cutting trade ties or sanctioning government ministers.

But so far none of the steps laid out by Brussels has garnered enough support from member states to be put into action.

Suspending the entirety of the EU's cooperation agreement -- as Spain is pushing for -- requires unanimity among the bloc's 27 countries and would almost certainly be blocked by

allies of Israel.

More feasible could be suspending the part of the deal facilitating closer trade ties, a move that only requires support from a weighted majority of EU countries.

That would require a shift in position from EU heavyweights such as Germany or Italy. Rome has already signalled a tougher line on Israel by suspending a defence agreement.

"We already have the measures on the table; some of them that require a qualified (weighted) majority," EU foreign policy Kaja Kallas said.

"First, I think it should be assessed whether it's possi-

ble to move with those, if the member states have the wish to do so, to put pressure on Israel."

The recent ouster of staunch Israel backer Viktor Orban in elections in Hungary has also added to the likelihood of movement on measures.

A separate proposal for sanctions on "extremist" Israeli settlers in the West Bank had been vetoed by Budapest for months.

Diplomats and EU officials say they hope to get the greenlight for those measures soon but that it could take until Hungary's new government comes to power in May.

Over \$71 bn needed over next decade to rebuild Gaza: UN-EU assessment

Geneva, Switzerland

More than \$71 billion will be needed over the next decade for recovery and reconstruction in war-ravaged Gaza, according to an EU-UN assessment published yesterday.

After more than two years of Israel's war in the Palestinian

territory, "recovery and reconstruction needs are estimated at around \$71.4 billion", said the final Gaza Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment developed by the United Nations and the European Union, in coordination with the World Bank.

Hungary's Magyar says would carry out ICC warrant against Netanyahu

AFP | Budapest, Hungary

Hungary's incoming prime minister Peter Magyar said Monday the country will execute International Criminal Court warrants against anyone, after he invited Israeli leader Benjamin Netanyahu -- wanted under just such a warrant -- to Budapest later this year.

In 2024, the ICC issued an arrest warrant for Netanyahu over allegations of crimes against humanity and war crimes -- including starvation as a method of warfare -- in Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza.

Last week Magyar made clear he wants Hungary to reverse that decision -- but he also invited the Israel premier to visit Budapest again in October, according to an Israeli readout of a call between the two leaders.

Asked by a reporter to clarify, Magyar said he issued invitations to all prime ministers and presidents he spoke on the phone for the 70th anniversary of Hungary's anti-Soviet uprising of 1956.

But he also said that he had made it clear, "even to the Israeli prime minister", that it was his intention to stop the country's withdrawal from the

ICC.

"If someone is a member of the International Criminal Court and a person who is wanted enters our country, then they must be taken into custody," the pro-EU conservative told reporters.

"I don't need to spell everything out over the phone. I assume that every head of state and government is familiar with these laws," he added.



Hungary's outgoing nationalist leader Viktor Orban announced last year that his country was withdrawing from the ICC, after meeting with Netanyahu in Budapest. The withdrawal was due to take effect by June 2 this year.