

**Question for written answer E-009710/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Bart Staes (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Mechanisms of the EU-Israel Association Agreement and international humanitarian law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

EU officials have repeatedly reaffirmed that dialogue under the EU-Israel Association Agreement (AA) is the primary framework for the EU to address the issue of respect by Israel for international humanitarian law (IHL) in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). This engagement is cited as the most effective way to convey these concerns, and is therefore presented as a justification for continuing the AA. Respect for IHL has also been named as a condition for any 'upgrade' of the agreement.

According to an EU demarche published on the Israeli website *Ha'aretz*<sup>1</sup>, the EU recently proposed to address a number of IHL issues through a separate dialogue with the Israeli authorities, which 'should not affect or be related to the existing framework for bilateral dialogue, including Association Council subcommittees'.

1. Given the EU's position on the role of AA mechanisms in addressing the issue of respect by Israel for IHL, how does the Commission explain this proposal to separate dialogue on these issues (and its outcomes) from existing mechanisms?
2. Can the Commission confirm whether the issue of respect by Israel for IHL in the OPT will be systematically addressed in the framework of Association Council mechanisms, and whether respect for IHL remains a condition for the further development of relations?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/1.622099>