

**Question for written answer E-000327/2015
to the Council**

Rule 130

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Subject: Israel's freezing of money due to the PNA

On 3 January Israel froze the transfer of a sum due to the Palestinian National Authority. In an arbitrary, unlawful, and illegal action the Israeli authorities decided to withhold a total of EUR 106 million that they had collected, tax revenue making up more than half of the Palestinian annual budget.

This unacceptable measure, which Palestinian leaders have described as another Israeli war crime, was taken in retaliation after it had been confirmed that the Palestinian National Authority had completed the procedure for joining the International Criminal Court.

According to Israeli press reports, Israel's Prime Minister has embarked on a diplomatic offensive to make the US Congress apply a law giving the power to cut off American aid to the Palestinian National Authority (USD 400 million).

In the light of the foregoing, has the Council discussed this matter?

In particular, what does it think of Israel's unacceptable, criminal attitude? What steps has it taken or will it take in response to the Israeli Government's decision, and what, in its opinion, are the implications for the future of EU-Israel relations?