

**Question for written answer E-000514/2015
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**
Rule 130
Patrick Le Hyaric (GUE/NGL)

Subject: VP/HR - Freeze on taxes collected by Israel on behalf of the Palestinian Authority

The Israeli Government has decided to freeze more than 100 million euros of taxes due to the Palestinian Authority, in reprisal for the latter's application to join the International Criminal Court (ICC). These taxes, which should be paid over to the Authority every month, represent almost half the budget of the Palestinian State.

According to the VP/HR, Ms Mogherini, this decision 'runs counter to Israel's obligations under the Paris protocol', which was signed in 1994 and regulates economic relations between Israel and the Palestinian territories.

1. Given that the State of Israel is not meeting its obligations, how can the VP/HR justify maintaining the co-operation agreements signed with Israel despite the persistent exactions by that occupying country?
2. The impression gained is that the EU apparently does not consider acts of collective punishment and economic strangulation against the Palestinian people as human rights violations. What kind of conditions would induce the EU to freeze the co-operation agreements signed between the EU and Israel?