

**Question for written answer E-003219/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Development of the wine sector in Palestine

The production of quality wine in Palestine is based on ancestral traditions. Today, political constraints mean that grapes have to be imported from foreign countries to supply the local wineries.

According to official data from the Palestinian Authority there are about 8 000 hectares of land available for grape production. This accounts for about 1.4 million vines in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, producing 80 tons of grapes per year.

This is a very important sector for the Palestinian State, which is still struggling against the Israeli occupation of its territory and striving to ensure its economic survival. As a result of this occupation, wine producers are paying an exorbitant price for water imposed by Israel, which is illegally occupying the main reservoirs. The confiscation of land and subsequent destruction of vineyards represents another obstacle. The situation in this occupied country also constrains trade relations with third countries.

Against this background, and given that the EU is one of the main donors to the Palestinian Authority, can the European Commission say what it thinks of this situation and whether it is willing to intervene with Israel to put an end to the situation?