

**Question for written answer E-013980/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Patrick Le Hyaric (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Differentiation in trade relations and cooperation programmes with Israel

The EU does not recognise the territories occupied by Israel in Palestine. Several conclusions by the EU Foreign Affairs Council since 2009 have stipulated that a policy of differentiation should be established with regard to cooperation with Israel, whether in the context of EU programmes or the association agreement with Israel.

However, this policy of differentiation is not applied with the degree of firmness that should be taken against an occupying power which is guilty of serious and repeated human rights abuses. Furthermore, efforts are needed to prevent Israeli firms involved in military activities or in the settlements from deploying strategies to circumvent the policy.

When will the Commission finally introduce a labelling system for products from the settlements or containing parts from the settlements?

The Commission's new trade strategy published on 14 October 2015 sets out highly ambitious plans for trade in services. Will this strategy also be accompanied by differentiation mechanisms for trade in services in the occupied territories, in particular as regards banking and public service contracts?