

**Question for written answer E-001102/2016/rev.1
to the Council
Rule 130
Keith Taylor (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Engagement with the business community on human rights in Israel and Palestine

The EU and its Member States strongly oppose Israel's settlement policy. Further, the EU and its 28 Member States have agreed on the publication of business advisories on the risks of operating and investing in the settlements, and 21 Member States have published such advisories. Despite those commendable efforts, a number of EU companies are entering into business relationships which contribute to or maintain illegal settlements and other violations of international humanitarian and human rights law in the occupied Palestinian territories.

A recent report by Human Rights Watch (<https://www.hrw.org/node/285045/>) clearly shows how settlement businesses contribute to Israeli's violation of Palestinian human rights.

Given the recent commitment of Member States to advance the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights by 'proactively engaging with business on issues related to business and human rights':

Will Member States communicate to the companies concerned, whether publicly or confidentially, their expectations with regard to respect for international law, as recommended by the former UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Business and Human Rights?