

**Question for written answer E-001122/2016
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 130

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Subject: VP/HR - Lack of EU reaction to Israel's settlements expansion

Israel announced¹ the construction of 891 settlement units in the illegal settlement of Gilo in the Occupied Palestinian Territories between November and December 2015. It also announced the resumption of the separation wall in the area. Compounded, these developments would create territorial contiguity between Gilo and Har Gilo – paving the way for a de facto annexation of Har Gilo by Israel, while Gilo itself has already been annexed, which UN Security Council Resolution 478(1980)² declared null and void.

In view of the Conclusions of the EU Foreign Affairs Council of 18 January³, which reiterated the EU's readiness to act over settlement expansion in East Jerusalem and its periphery, as well as the EU's vocal opposition to the construction of Israel's separation wall into the Occupied Palestinian Territories:

1. Why haven't these developments been publicly condemned by the VP/HR?
2. Will the EEAS develop a strategy in response to settlement expansion in East Jerusalem and its periphery in line with the Council's established policy?

¹ Report by Israeli NGO B'Tselem, Jan 5, 2016:
http://www.btselem.org/jerusalem/20150105_expansion_of_gilo_settlement

² UNSC Resolution 478(1980): <http://palestineun.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/SC-478-1980.pdf>

³ EU Council Conclusions, Jan 18, 2016: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/press-releases-pdf/2016/1/40802208020_en_635887387200000000.pdf