

**Question for written answer E-000890/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Israeli law legalising illegal settlements in the West Bank

On 6 February, the Knesset approved an unacceptable bill to retroactively 'legalise' 4 000 illegal settler homes built on privately owned Palestinian land. With this law – the latest step in a series of moves favouring Israeli settlements in occupied Palestinian land – the Knesset is giving the green light to an illegal land-grab.

The so-called 'regulation bill' paves the way for Israel to recognise thousands of Jewish settler homes constructed illegally on privately owned Palestinian land. The bill is in breach of international law and denies Palestinian owners the right to use or hold the lands affected. It is an infringement of Palestinian property rights and the right of Palestinians to self-determination.

Israel's establishment of settlements has no legal validity, constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and is a major obstacle to the vision of two states living side-by-side in peace and security.

What pressure will the EU bring to bear on the Israeli Government to end the infringement of Palestinian human rights and immediately put a stop to the settlements?

Why has the EU not yet frozen the EU-Israel Association Agreement, given the constant violation of Article 2 thereof, which calls for respect for human rights?