

**Question for written answer E-001848/2017  
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: VP/HR - Spraying of toxic substances by the Israeli army in Gaza

After the outbreak of the second Intifada in September 2000, the Israeli authorities decided to create a 'buffer zone' in Gaza, robbing the Palestinians of even more of their territory. Since the Israeli aggression of the summer of 2014, the buffer zone has been maintained by chemical spraying each year in December, January and April. These chemical sprays not only destroy the agricultural fields that have been stolen to form the buffer zone, but also end up by affecting all the neighbouring fields, destroying extensive crops such as strawberries and vegetables and laying waste to orchards.

The B'Tselem organisation, which has denounced yet another act of aggression, says that 400 hectares of land have been damaged, resulting in annual losses estimated at hundreds of thousands of euros. The same organisation, while warning about the impact of these sprays on the health of the population, consistently argues that this new strategy employed by the Israeli army is linked to its objective of attacking the livelihoods of the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip, which is increasingly dependent on food produced by Israel.

In view of the above, will the Vice-President / High Representative say how she judges this state of affairs and what action she intends to take vis-à-vis the Israeli government to stop this barbaric crime against the people of Gaza?