

Question for written answer E-002738/2017
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
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Subject: VP/HR - New settlements in the West Bank

In 2016 the EU stated that it would continue to closely monitor events in the West Bank and their implications beyond the area, and that it would consider possible actions to protect the viability of the two-state solution, in reference to the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel. Furthermore, it stated that the settlements 'are illegal under international law, constitute an obstacle to peace and threaten to make a two-state solution impossible'.

On 30 March 2017, the Israeli security cabinet approved the construction of the first new settlements in the West Bank in the last two decades.

Some 400 000 Israelis currently live in the West Bank, alongside 2.8 million Palestinians. The construction of Israeli housing in the region is considered illegal under international law. The international community has expressed its concern on numerous occasions: in December 2016, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2334 against Israeli settlements in Palestinian territory.

The position of the EU is clear. Will action be taken on the agreements with Israel as a result, or will it continue to be treated, regardless of its constant violation of international law, as a priority partner of the EU?