

Question for written answer P-009959/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Keith Taylor (Verts/ALE)

Subject: VP/HR - Labelling of Israeli settlement products

The Foreign Affairs Council conclusions of 12 May 2012 state Member States' 'commitment to fully and effectively implement[ing] existing EU legislation and the bilateral arrangements applicable to settlement products'¹.

The 'Trading Away Peace' report of October 2012 published by 22 international NGOs² estimated the value of exports from illegal settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories to the EU at EUR 230 million, with the majority of products continuing to be incorrectly labelled as 'Made in Israel'.

Over two years have passed since the conclusions of the aforementioned Foreign Affairs Council meeting were published, but EU legislation on the correct labelling of settlement products is yet to be implemented. The Foreign Affairs Council conclusions of 17 November 2014 again reiterated the commitment taken in 2012 in this regard.

1. Does the VP / HR agree that the continued incorrect labelling of settlement products as being made in Israel represents a failure on the part of the EU to fulfil its legal obligations and adequately protect consumers?

2. Will the VP / HR give an account of the progress made on ensuring the full and effective implementation of EU legislation relating to the labelling of settlement products for consumers, and when is this expected to be finalised?

¹ Foreign Affairs Council conclusions on the Middle East Peace Process, May 2012, paragraph 6

² 'Trading Away Peace: How Europe helps sustain illegal Israeli settlements', October 2012, p. 20