

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3955/06  
by Joost Lagendijk (Verts/ALE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Implementation of the technical arrangement between Israel and the EU concerning the application of the rules of origin

In February 2005 the EU and Israel began implementing a 'technical arrangement' designed to provide the EU customs authorities with information enabling them to determine when goods that Israel continues to export under the EU-Israel Association Agreement were in fact produced in occupied territories, and must therefore be refused preferential treatment when imported into the Community. Does the Commission consider that Israel's actions unilaterally extending its national legislation, the authority of its national customs officers and the exercise of other national administrative authorities to occupied territory constitute serious breaches of international customary obligations arising from a peremptory norm of general international law? Does it therefore consider that, when Israel's national customs authorities issue proofs of origin under the EU-Israel Association Agreement covering products produced in occupied territory, those administrative acts carried out under the Agreement are also breaching such international customary obligations, as well as Israel's obligations to the EU under the Agreement itself?

Is the Commission aware of any other cases in which actions that violate a third state's international customary obligations arising from a peremptory norm of general international law are being systematically carried out by its authorities under a Community agreement?