

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1242/09
by Arlene McCarthy (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Produce from illegal Israeli settlements

The United Nations Security Council, in resolutions 446, 452, 465 and 471, has described the establishment and expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as having 'no legal validity'.

The European Parliament, in its resolution on the humanitarian crisis in the Palestinian territories and the role of the EU, has stated that it 'reiterates its condemnation of, and calls for an immediate halt to, the continuing extension of settlements, in particular in East Jerusalem, and the building of the wall beyond the 1967 borders, which is contrary to international law and is an obstacle to the restoration of a climate of dialogue' (P6_TA(2006)0237).

Under arrangements in place concerning the EU-Israel Association Agreement, goods produced in such settlements should not benefit from this agreement¹.

Citizens have raised concerns that produce labelled as 'Israeli' may be produce either from internationally recognised Israeli territory or from illegal Israeli settlements; likewise, produce labelled as 'produce of the West Bank' may be either Palestinian produce or produce of such settlements.

What steps are being taken by the Commission to ensure that produce from illegal Israeli settlements is clearly identified and differentiated from produce from internationally recognised Israeli territory and from Palestinian produce?

¹ OJ L 147, 21.6.2000.