

**Question for written answer E-002648/2012  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: The EU-Israel Association Agreement concerning products from the Occupied Territories

The EU has Association Agreements with both Israel and Palestine, both of which include a Free Trade Agreement containing separate and distinct provisions concerning preferential commercial treatment. Nevertheless, Israel's application of the EU-Israel Association Agreement to the Occupied Territories has resulted in the improper implementation of EU law, which, as confirmed by the Court of Justice in the *Brita GmbH v Hauptzollamt Hamburg-Hafen* case, does not permit Member States' customs authorities to grant preferential treatment under the EU-Israel Association Agreement to products from Israeli-occupied territories.

European citizens have clearly expressed their will concerning products from Palestinian occupied territories - and the EU should ensure that this will is respected.

We are concerned about the practices employed by certain companies which persist in exploiting the terms of the EU-Israel Association Agreement by exporting goods produced in the Occupied Territories. This practice is regrettable and flies in the face of the EU's international policies and represents an abuse of the extensive opportunities for legitimate preferential access to the Union's internal market.

What strategies does the Commission have to address this problem?

The EU has been encountering a variety of problems when enforcing the rules of origin with regard to products originating in settlements in occupied territories. The Technical Arrangement has proved unsatisfactory.

Will the Commission review and, if necessary, renegotiate the Technical Arrangement with the intention of making it more effective and simpler?

How does the Commission ensure that Israel adheres to the rules set out in the Association Agreement with the EU concerning products from the Occupied Territories?