

**Question for written answer E-007585/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Stephen Hughes (S&D)

Subject: EU funding of illegal Israeli settlements

The Independent, a daily newspaper in the United Kingdom, has published a story indicating that the European Union, through its scientific research programme FP7, has provided funding of over €1 million to Ahava (Dead Sea products), which has its factory in, and is partly owned by, the Mitzpe Shalem settlement.

1. What assessment has the Commission made of the level of funding in the last five years through EU programmes to businesses and other entities based in Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories?
2. Is it legal under EU procurement guidelines for a Member State to specify in the tender documents that any products supplied as part of the contract must exclude produce from illegal Israeli settlements?
3. Is it legal under EU procurement guidelines for a Member State to specify in the tender documents that companies operating in Israeli settlements can be excluded from contracts?