

**Question for written answer E-000244/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Mitro Repo (S&D)

Subject: Labelling of products produced in Israel's illegal settlements

The European Union is Israel's biggest trading partner. For European consumers, it is important to be able to choose between those products which are genuinely produced in Israel and those which are produced in Israel's illegal settlements.

In many European supermarkets it is impossible to tell whether fruit and vegetables have been grown in Israeli or Palestinian territory. Moreover, products produced in the industrial areas established by Israel on the West Bank are misleadingly sold in European shops as 'produce of Israel'.

The Israeli settlements have been defined as illegal under international law. In December 2012, Israel authorised the building of 3 000 new settlers' homes in the disputed E area. This area is in the Palestinian territories.

It is important to consumers that products should be marked so that it is possible to distinguish between products produced in the settlements and those produced in Israel or Palestine.

1. What will the Commission do with regard to labelling of products produced in the illegal Israeli settlements?
2. Does the Commission regard the unclear labelling practices as being in conflict with the EU's consumer protection requirements?
3. Will the Commission consider measures to encourage Member States to halt the sale of products produced in the illegal Israeli settlements?