

**Question for written answer E-004914/2014**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Richard Howitt (S&D)**

Subject: 'Mission for Growth to Israel': expansion of bilateral cooperation

On 22 and 23 October 2013, Vice-President Tajani led a 'Mission for Growth' to Israel. Letters of intent were signed regarding the expansion of EU-Israel cooperation in industrial policy and the activities of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), as well as an administrative agreement concerning Israel's participation in the GNSS satellite navigation programme. The Vice-President also met the Israeli Minister of Tourism to discuss cooperation in this area.

The EU has committed itself to making any upgrading of EU-Israel relations conditional on improved respect for international humanitarian law. Parliament has also resolved that 'Israel's commitment to respect its obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law towards the Palestinian population must be taken into full consideration in the EU's bilateral relations with the country'. The Foreign Affairs Council has taken the position that 'in line with international law – all agreements between the State of Israel and the European Union must unequivocally and explicitly indicate their inapplicability to the territories occupied by Israel in 1967'.

1. How is the signing of the abovementioned letters of intent consistent with the EU's commitments and positions on conditionality in the context of upgrading EU-Israel relations?
2. When signing the letters of intent and the administrative agreement, did EU negotiators ensure that their Israeli counterparts were fully aware of the EU's position on the exclusion of the territories occupied by Israel in 1967? In further negotiations, will EU representatives be given clear instructions on implementing this commitment?
3. In the proposed expansion of SME cooperation, what safeguards will be put in place to ensure that EU support is not extended to SMEs involved in serious breaches of international humanitarian law and international human rights law?
4. For European businesses, the field of tourism entails a particular risk of contributing to the illegal settlement enterprise. What steps have been, or will be, taken to ensure that European tour operators receive guidance on avoiding support for settlement businesses, as recommended in 2011 by the EU heads of mission in Jerusalem?