

**Question for written answer E-005173/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 117
Marisa Matias (GUE/NGL) and Alda Sousa (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: VP/HR - Israel's ongoing demolitions of EU-funded humanitarian aid projects

On 8 April 2014, Israel dismantled three EU-funded humanitarian aid projects in Ras-a-Baba, which lies in the E1 corridor of the West Bank. Some 79 EU-funded structures were demolished in the West Bank's 'Area C' and Jerusalem region in 2012 and 54 more were destroyed in the first six months of 2013.

According to the information provided by the Commission between 2002 and 2012, Israel destroyed development projects worth EUR 49.2 million, of which EUR 29.4 million was funded by the EU or its Member States.

Since the beginning of the negotiations in the summer of 2013, work has begun on 10 509 illegal settlement units.

In 2012 the EU Foreign Affairs Council recognised the urgency of the situation on the ground and reiterated that 'settlements remain illegal under international law'.

Destruction of real and personal property is a violation of Article 53 of the Fourth Geneva Convention and Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement, which explicitly states that relations between the two actors will be based on mutual adherence to human rights and democratic principles. However, in spite of this agreement, Israel continues to violate the rights of Palestinians throughout the occupied territories.

In this context could the Vice-President / High Representative::

1. describe each of the instruments that the EU has at its disposal and that it will use to make Israel modify its policy so as to comply with international law?
2. explain in what situation she would consider the suspension of the EU-Israel Association Agreement as being justified, taking into account the failure of the EU's policy of verbal protests and its duty to respect its international obligations?
3. describe the steps that the Commission is going to take in its relations with Israel in the very likely case of a failure of the Kerry Initiative by 29 April 2014?