

**Question for written answer E-003899/2017
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Hilde Vautmans (ALDE)**

Subject: VP/HR - The occupied Syrian Golan

In 2016 the Israeli Government approved the construction of 1 600 additional settlement units in the occupied Syrian Golan. This followed calls from Israeli Government ministers to increase the number of Israeli settlers in the Golan by 100 000 over a five-year period. At the same time, the Israeli authorities are seeking to designate 20 000 acres of land from around two of the remaining Syrian villages as a national park, which would further inhibit the expansion of these already severely overcrowded villages. Due to discriminatory housing policies, Syrians are forced to build without permits – risking fines and the full or partial demolition of their buildings – in order to meet their housing needs. Indeed, a Syrian home was demolished by the Israeli authorities last year and between 80-90 other homeowners have been issued with demolition orders.

Can the Vice-President / High Representative outline the discussions the EU is having with the Israeli Government through its current political dialogue on these and related issues, and confirm that the EU will raise them at the meeting of the EU-Israel Association Council due to be held this year?