Question for written answer E-003066/2019 to the Commission

Rule 138

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Subject: EU auditing and screening procedures for the allocation of funding to associations taking

action against Israel

In January 2019, the Ministry of Strategic Affairs and Public Diplomacy of the State of Israel published a report which disclosed that direct and indirect EU funding was being given to a number of associations whose activities include delegitimising and boycotting the State of Israel.

It refers to funding allocated to organisations from countries ranging from Italy to Norway and Ireland, and in some cases this funding exceeded EUR 1 million.

In 2005, 171 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) founded a movement known as BDS (Boycott, Disinvestment and Sanctions) whose activities include campaigns to boycott Israeli products, artists and cultural goods.

The German Parliament recently adopted by a large majority a motion in which the controversial BDS movement was classified as anti-Semitic. As a result, the campaign will be deprived of public funds and incentives. Germany is the first European country to condemn BDS and classify it as 'racist and anti-Semitic'.

What action will the Commission take to make clear what screening procedures are used in the allocation of funds to NGOs that take direct and indirect action against the State of Israel?