

**Question for written answer E-004023/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Guido Reil (ID)

Subject: Food from occupied territories

The Court of Justice of the EU has ruled that foodstuffs and other products produced in Israeli settlements in the West Bank or the Golan Heights may no longer be marked 'Made in Israel' when imported into the EU. Instead the origin must be indicated as being the West Bank or the Golan Heights, as the case may be, and it should be made clear that the products originate from Israeli settlements there. In making this ruling, the Court of Justice upheld the position of the Commission, which in a paper of November 2015 had pointed out that the EU did not recognise Israel's sovereignty over those territories and had stated that European consumers must be fully informed¹.

The Western Sahara has been occupied by Morocco since 1976. No state has recognised Morocco's claims to this area.

The northern part of Cyprus has been occupied by Turkish troops for decades. UN Resolution 541 called on all states not to recognise the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. However, Turkey has for years been implementing a resettlement policy.

How does the Commission justify this policy of double standards?

Will the Commission now also ensure that, in future, EU consumers know that they are buying a product originating from occupied Western Sahara or from the occupied northern part of Cyprus?

¹ Commission: Interpretative notice on indication of origin of goods from the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967, C(2015)7834 final, p. 2.