

**Question for written answer E-005272/2021/rev.1  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Manu Pineda** (The Left), **Evin Incir** (S&D), **Margrete Auken** (Verts/ALE)

**Subject:** European financial institutions have provided funds to companies involved in Israel's illegal settlement development

On 29 September 2021, a coalition of 26 European and Palestinian organisations published a report<sup>1</sup> revealing that 672 European financial institutions, including banks, pension funds and insurance companies, have provided USD 255 billion in the form of investments and loans to 50 companies involved in Israel's illegal settlement enterprise, thereby contributing to violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

Private actors have responsibilities under international law and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) – ranging from enhanced human rights due diligence to divestment – to avoid involvement in grave violations of international law and international crimes.

In the light of the above, the EU's commitment to the UNGPs, and upcoming legislation on mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence, could the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Does the Commission intend to adopt stricter regulations to address and ensure that corporations within its jurisdiction do not contribute to violations in conflict zones?
2. Does the Commission intend to publish business advice warning against the legal risks and consequences of involvement in Israel's illegal settlements?
3. Does the Commission intend to support the mandate entrusted to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights by the UN Human Rights Council to annually update the UN database of businesses involved in Israeli settlements?

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://dontbuyintooccupation.org/reports/dont-buy-into-occupation-report/>