

ORAL QUESTION H-0400/03

for Question Time at the part-session in July 2003

pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure

by Yasmine Boudjenah

to the Commission

Subject: Signature by Israel of an agreement renewing its participation in the Sixth RFP

On 10 June 2003 the Commission renewed the scientific and technological cooperation agreement with Israel to enable the country to participate in the European Union's Sixth Research Framework Programme (RFP) for the period 2003-2006. Israel is the only non-European country to have been fully involved in the EU's RFP and hence to have enjoyed special advantages. While the Fifth RFP (1998-2002) had been launched with a peace perspective - base, in particular, on the building of infrastructure for a future Palestinian state - the situation is quite different at present. This led the European Parliament to adopt a resolution¹ on 10 April 2002 calling on the Commission and the Council 'to suspend the EU-Israel Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreement'.

In 1990 the Commission had, on a request from Parliament, introduced a partial freeze on scientific cooperation with Israel. This pressure had forced the Government to reopen Palestinian schools and universities.

Is the Commission's present position not contrary to what it should be doing, namely bringing pressure to bear on the Israeli Government to ensure that it stops violating international and humanitarian laws?

Tabled: 17.06.2003

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¹ OJ C 127 E, 29.5.2003, p. 584.