

ORAL QUESTION H-0640/03
for Question Time at the part-session in November 2003
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure
by John Cushnahan
to the Commission

Subject: Application of the EC-Israel Association Agreement

Press reports have recently stated that Member States have been faced with importers' court actions challenging Member State moves to recover duty on suspected settlement imports which Israel's customs authorities have maintained are eligible for preferential treatment.

Since Community law requires the importing country's authorities to accept the legally-made determinations of the exporting country's authorities, is the Commission confident that the Member States can sustain duty recovery against importers' objections by relying on the fact that Israel's verification answers fail to satisfy the Member State customs authorities' requests to specify the locales in which the products in question were actually produced? Has Israel taken the position that its customs authorities' verification answers are sufficient and must be accepted under the Agreement?

Tabled: 16.10.2003
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