

WRITTEN QUESTION P-3468/08
by Vincenzo Aita (GUE/NGL)
to the Council

Subject: EU-Israel 'upgrade' of relations

The EU-Israel Association Council in 2007 established a 'Reflection Group' which would consider ways to upgrade relations between Israel and the European Union.

It was brought to my attention that Israel submitted two non-papers that outline the 'desired' form of upgrade.

As the political decision on the proposed 'upgrade' is currently being formulated now, is the Council considering, in this process, paragraph 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement which bases the provisions of the above Agreement on the essential fundamentals of European values: respect for human rights and democratic principles?¹

In addition, is the Council also considering the ENP EU/Israel Action Plan's *Priority for Action*, which lists the protection of human rights as one of the main priorities of relations?²

Does the Council share the interpretation of paragraph 2, of the EU-Israel Association Agreement, that it makes EU-Israel relations conditional on Israel's respect for human rights and democratic principles?

Having that in mind, would it be appropriate to 'upgrade' relations with Israel, in light of continuous Israeli violations of human rights in the oPT, the siege in Gaza, continuing to build the 'separation barrier' on its current track, restrictions on civilian and goods movements, the unjustified invasions of oPT cities without respect to the PA, the expansion of settlements in the oPT and the confiscation of land?

Does the Council think that the timing of the proposed 'upgrade' is appropriate, with respect to the situation on the ground?

¹ Commission of the European Communities. EU-Israel Association Agreement, Brussels, 2000.

² Commission of the European Communities. EU/Israel Action Plan.