

WRITTEN QUESTION P-4437/09
by Diana Wallis (ALDE)
to the Commission

Subject: Importation of goods from illegal Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories

Is the Commission aware of the problem of the sale of goods in shops across the EU labelled as originating in the 'West Bank'? This label gives consumers the false impression that the produce is from Palestinian producers. However, it is not. Is the Commission aware that supermarkets, in particular, are concerned at this situation and are actively seeking guidance on this matter?

On 9 July 2004 the International Court of Justice confirmed the legal status of the West Bank and East Jerusalem as 'Occupied'. Under International Law the Israeli Settlements that have been built on this territory are in direct breach of Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention and are illegal. It follows that if the settlements are illegal, then produce (mainly agricultural) from those settlements is also illegal.

Does the Commission agree that the importing of goods and products from illegal Israeli settlements should be excluded from the EU-Israel trade agreement and banned? What practical steps and guidance will the Commission give to Member States to inform them of how to deal with these products?