

**Question for written answer P-4904/2010
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Daniel Cohn-Bendit (Verts/ALE)

Subject: EU - Israel agreement on reciprocal liberalisation measures on agricultural products, processed agricultural products and fish and fishery products

A new agreement between the European Union and Israel on reciprocal liberalisation measures on agricultural products, processed agricultural products and fish and fishery products came into force on 1 January 2010.

Although the European Union acts according to the principle that agreements between the EU and Israel apply solely to the territory of Israel as recognised by the relevant United Nations resolutions, and although it considers the colonies in the Occupied Palestinian Territories to be illegal under international law, it is nevertheless true that Israel has long been selling agricultural products from these colonies in Europe. The Israeli Agrexco company, which is 50% owned by the State of Israel, exports around 70% of agricultural products produced in Israeli colonies to Europe. These products, originating in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, are sold as 'made in Israel', thereby benefiting from preferential tariffs as laid down in the EU-Israel Association Agreement.

In addition, implementation of this new agreement entails the application of international humanitarian law, particularly in terms of access to water. Israel is currently using at least 80% of the water from the Mountain Aquifer, which is the only source of water remaining to the Palestinians.

What specific measures and control mechanisms does the Commission intend to put in place in order to prevent all products coming under the new agreement which originate in the Israeli colonies from benefiting from preferential tariffs and to ensure that Israel ends its policy of discrimination towards Palestinians in the Occupied Territories in terms of access to water and applies international humanitarian law in this respect?