**Question for written answer E-002521/2026**
**to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Circumvention of the EU-Israel Association Agreement and illegal imports from settlements in the occupied territories

The 'Importing Occupation' investigation by the NGO Global Echo documents how approximately 20 % of Israeli agricultural exports destined for the EU actually originate from Israeli settlements in the occupied territories. Through the use of fictitious addresses and triangulations, these goods are fraudulently labelled as 'Made in Israel' to improperly benefit from the zero-duty regime provided by the 2000 EU-Israel Association Agreement, which categorically excludes the settlements.

This systematic circumvention not only constitutes customs fraud detrimental to the EU's own resources but also undermines the restrictive measures adopted by the Council against extremist settlers, allowing their economic supply chains undisturbed access to the single market. It furthermore violates the right of European consumers to transparent information regarding the true origin of products.

Therefore:

1. Does the Commission intend to task the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) with launching a thorough investigation into the extent of this customs fraud to protect the Union's finances?

2. What binding traceability mechanisms does it intend to implement to ensure that the beneficiaries of such preferential exports are not individuals or entities already targeted by EU sanctions?

3. Will it consider the precautionary suspension of preferential tariff regimes for the agri-food product categories at highest risk of circumvention (such as dates and citrus fruits) pending a comprehensive audit?

Supporter[1]

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[1] This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Brando Benifei (S&D).