

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002150/25
to the Commission
Ana Miranda Paz (Verts/ALE)
(28 May 2025)**

Subject: Impact of Israeli colonial exploitation and extractivism on Palestinian agriculture

The State of Israel is pursuing a colonial policy of extraction and plundering, including in relation to water. Israel is turning water into a tool that it can use to prey on Palestinian agriculture, through permits to build or destroy infrastructure, refusal of permits, confiscation of water resources (including rainwater), discriminatory price setting and water distribution prioritising Israelis and settlers ahead of Palestinians — including Israeli Palestinians. Israel controls the borders and the permits for exporting and importing products and inputs, as well as the entry of Palestinian products in occupied territories. This hampers trade and makes it more costly, while also reducing the market for Palestinian agricultural products.

The defence of free competition, equal opportunities and non-discrimination for Palestinian farmers is contradicted by continued support for Israeli colonial agriculture under an apartheid regime, going against the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 19 July 2024.

1. Does the Commission intend to suspend agricultural imports from Israel and the occupied territories in light of these discriminatory practices towards Palestinian products?
2. What action will the Commission take in relation to Israeli agricultural products that arrive in the EU?

Submitted: 28.5.2025

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(9 July 2025)**

The EU has been consistently clear in its position that settlements are illegal under international law and has repeatedly condemned Israel's settlement policy and the occupation of the Palestinian territory that began in 1967.

EU positions and policies are fully aligned on the United Nations resolutions regarding the status of the occupied Palestinian territory (OPT) ⁽¹⁾ and are overall consistent with the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice of 19 July 2024 ⁽²⁾ as regards the duty of non-recognition, the duty to distinguish in the dealings with Israel between its territory and the OPT, and the duty of non-assistance.

The EU differentiation policy implies that goods, including agricultural products, originating from Israeli settlements in occupied territories since June 1967 do not fall within the scope of the EU-Israel Association Agreement ⁽³⁾ and therefore cannot benefit from trade preferences under the Agreement.

Moreover, in 2015, the Commission adopted an Interpretative Notice to provide guidance on the labelling of goods, including agricultural products, from Israeli settlements in the OPT and how the existing legislation on labelling should be applied ⁽⁴⁾. The approach of the Interpretative Notice was confirmed by a judgment of the Court of Justice of the EU in 2019 ⁽⁵⁾. Official controls on the labelling of imported goods are primarily the responsibility of Member States, in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/625 on official controls on the agri-food chain ⁽⁶⁾.

⁽¹⁾ <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/ltd/n24/266/48/pdf/n2426648.pdf>.

⁽²⁾ Advisory Opinion of 19 July 2024, <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-adv-01-00-en.pdf>.

⁽³⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:411c0668-144d-44a1-a5e3-dd2342f7a5b5.0017.02/DOC_1&format=PDF.

⁽⁴⁾ [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TEXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52015XC1112\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TEXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52015XC1112(01)).

⁽⁵⁾ Judgment of 12 November 2019, *Organisation juive européenne and Vignoble Psagot Ltd v Ministre de l'Économie et des Finances*, C 363/18, EU:C:2019:954, <https://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?jsessionid=A16C97FD2EEC535918F5478A663AC7D6?text=&docid=220534&pageIndex=0&doclang=en&mode=req&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=8005913>.

⁽⁶⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/625/oj>.