

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000728/26
to the Commission
Emma Fourreau (The Left)
(20 February 2026)**

Subject: EU companies benefitting from the settlement of Palestine

In September 2025, the UN published an update to the list of companies operating in, and benefitting from, the Israeli settlements throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. There are 158 companies on that list, of which 10 are headquartered in the European Union: ACS, Altice International, Booking.com, Construcciones y Auxiliars de Ferrocarriles (CAF), Egis, Egis Rail, Heidelberg Materials AG, Ineco, SEMI S.A. and Steconfer.

On 19 July 2024, the International Court of Justice issued an advisory opinion describing the settlement of, and the presence of Israeli settlers and soldiers in, the Palestinian territories as unlawful. The UN General Assembly, in its Resolution A/ES-10/L.31, set a time limit on Israel's presence in the Palestinian territories. Israel is also violating several provisions of the Geneva Conventions.

In light of this:

1. How does the Commission plan to prevent all the EU-based companies complicit in the settlement of the Palestinian territories from participating in EU calls for tender?
2. What steps does it intend to take to deprive those companies of any direct or indirect EU funding (benefits, promotions, grants, programmes, etc.)?
3. What action will it take to sanction those companies so as to encourage them to both cease their settlement activity and stop being complicit with the Israeli occupying power?

Submitted: 20.2.2026

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(8 May 2026)**

The EU is aware of the UN's list of companies operating in and benefitting from the Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), including East Jerusalem.

The EU's view is that the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, endorsed by consensus in the Human Rights Council, need to be applied globally.

They are grounded in the recognition that businesses are required to comply with all applicable laws and to respect human rights. The EU calls on all companies, including European ones, to implement the Guiding Principles in all circumstances, including in Israel and the oPt.

The Commission works with Member States to raise awareness among European citizens and businesses of the potential risks related to economic and financial activities in the illegal settlements but does not currently implement measures targeting EU companies included in the UN database.

On the participation of EU-based companies in EU calls for tender, the Commission applies strict eligibility criteria, as outlined in the 'Guidelines on the eligibility of Israeli entities' ⁽¹⁾.

These guidelines ensure that EU funding is not provided to Israeli entities that have their place of establishment in the oPt or carry out research activities in these areas.

On 10 September 2025, during her State of the Union ⁽²⁾ speech, the President of the Commission announced a set of proposed measures for the EU to address the catastrophic situation in Gaza.

These include a partial suspension of the Association Agreement on certain trade-related matters, which would require the support of a qualified majority of EU Member States. The proposed measures have so far not been adopted by the Council.

⁽¹⁾ Guidelines on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards, OJ C205/9, 19 July 2013, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2013:205:0009:0011:EN:PDF>.

⁽²⁾ State of the Union speech (10 September 2025): https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/state-union/state-union-2025_en.