

EN
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Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
(8.5.2026)

Israel has been a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) since 1995. As such, it benefits from the most favoured nation treatment (MFN), as WTO members agree to give MFN status to each other.

The bilateral trade relations between the EU and Israel are governed by the free trade provisions of the EU-Israel Association Agreement¹. It gives Israel preferential conditions – compared to the MFN treatment – for accessing the EU market.

On 10 September 2025, the President of the Commission announced² a set of measures the EU could take to address the catastrophic situation in Gaza and in the West Bank. These include proposals for a reinforced package of sanctions and a partial suspension of the Association Agreement on certain trade-related matters. The President also announced the decision to put on hold EU bilateral financial support to Israel, without adversely affecting work with civil society or Yad Vashem.

The proposed measures on sanctions and trade have remained on the table for discussion in the Council as the number of supporting Member States is insufficient for their approval. Yet, if adopted and notified, the suspension would mean that imports from Israel would lose their preferential access to the EU market.

¹ https://eeas.europa.eu/archives/delegations/israel/documents/eu_israel/asso_agree_en.pdf.

² https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/state-union/state-union-2025_en.