EN
E-001633/2026
Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
(16.7.2026)

1. To determine whether goods are entitled to preferential treatment under the EU Israel Association Agreement, customs authorities apply the rules contained in that Agreement´s Protocol on Origin and in the 'Technical Arrangement' adopted in 2005. The operation of that arrangement has been described in previous Commission replies[1] and relies on information contained in proofs of preferential origin rather than on that contained in product labels.

Regulation 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers sets certain rules on the indication of the origin of food products, making such indication mandatory for certain products and for certain cases in which the non-indication of origin would be misleading. Where the indication is provided, it must be accurate. As a rule, the indications of origin in the labels are incumbent on 'food business operators' which are subject to the control by food authorities.

Where sectors or products for which marketing standards are established under Regulation 1308/2013 on the Common Market Organisation are concerned, products not meeting those standards are not allowed to be marketed within the EU and need to be brought into conformity prior to their placing on the market. Where conformity checks identify possible fraudulent or deceptive practices in respect of the marketing standards, competent authorities should take appropriate action in accordance with the Official Controls Regulation[2] and exchange fraud notifications in accordance with Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1715[3].

2. No, the Customs Surveillance system[4] cannot be used for that purpose.

3. For the reasons described in the answer to question 1, the sole fact that food originating in the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian territories is mislabelled as originating in Israel when presented to EU consumers, does not necessarily entail that the food in question has received preferential treatment upon its importation.

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[1] See e.g. reply to written question E-000112/2026.
[2] Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products, amending Regulations (EC) No 999/2001, (EC) No 396/2005, (EC) No 1069/2009, (EC) No 1107/2009, (EU) No 1151/2012, (EU) No 652/2014, (EU) 2016/429 and (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Regulations (EC) No 1/2005 and (EC) No 1099/2009 and Council Directives 98/58/EC, 1999/74/EC, 2007/43/EC, 2008/119/EC and 2008/120/EC, and repealing Regulations (EC) No 854/2004 and (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Directives 89/608/EEC, 89/662/EEC, 90/425/EEC, 91/496/EEC, 96/23/EC, 96/93/EC and 97/78/EC and Council Decision 92/438/EEC OJ L 95, 7.4.2017, pp. 1-142 http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/625/oj.
[3] Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1715 of 30 September 2019 laying down rules for the functioning of the information management system for official controls and its system components. OJ L 261, 14.10.2019, pp. 37–96: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2019/1715/oj.
[4] https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/online-services/online-services-and-databases-customs/surveillance-system_en.