

EN

E-001997/2026

Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
(4.8.2026)

The UN resolutions on the status of the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) and the Advisory Opinion¹ of the International Court of Justice require not to recognise as legal the unlawful presence of Israel in the oPt, not to render aid or assistance in maintaining this situation and to abstain from entering into economic or trade dealings with Israel concerning the oPt which may entrench its unlawful presence in the territory. Therefore, trade with the settlements is not as such illegal under international law.

Goods imported from the illegal settlements are subject to the EU Most Favoured Nation tariff rate, which applies by default to all imports of goods into the EU that are not eligible for preferential treatment.

As explained in the reply to parliamentary written question E-001713/2024², the EU has a long-standing position of non-recognition of Israel's sovereignty over the territories occupied by Israel since 1967 and considers Israel's settlements in the oPt as illegal. EU positions and policies on non-recognition and non-assistance are fully aligned with the obligations under international law.

On 17 September 2025, the Commission proposed a partial suspension of the EU-Israel Association Agreement³ on certain trade matters, following a review of Israel's compliance with Article 2 of the Agreement, which found indications that actions taken by the Israeli government would represent a breach of essential elements relating to respect for human rights and democratic principles.

On 13 July 2026, the Member States discussed options for further trade-related measures vis-à-vis the products originating in the settlements, as presented by the Commission, in accordance with the conclusions of the European Council of June 2026.

¹ <https://www.icj-cij.org/node/204176>.

² https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2024-001713_EN.html.

³ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/2000/384/oj/eng.