

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002024/26
to the Commission**

Lynn Boylan (The Left), Majdouline Sbai (Verts/ALE), Rima Hassan (The Left), Rudi Kennes (The Left), Danilo Della Valle (The Left), Manon Aubry (The Left)
(14 May 2026)

Subject: Follow up to written question regarding the exclusion of Israel from Most-Favoured Nation treatment under World Trade Organisation rules

The Commission was asked in Written Question E-000951/2026 ⁽¹⁾ whether it would stop treating Israel as a most-favoured nation within the World Trade Organisation (WTO) framework and engage with G7 colleagues to work towards the ending of most-favoured nation treatment for Israel, as was done when Russia illegally invaded Ukraine. The Commission was further asked whether it would advocate at the WTO's 14th Ministerial Conference in Cameroon for as many countries as possible to collectively stop treating Israel as a most-favoured nation.

The Commission's reply ⁽²⁾ does not address the questions that were asked and instead speaks about the measures currently before the Council. The proposal to end Israel's most-favoured nation treatment would be consistent with the treatment of Russia following its illegal invasion of Ukraine.

1. While the Commission acknowledges Israel's most-favoured nation status in its reply, will it commit to stop treating Israel as a most-favoured nation within the WTO framework?
2. Will the Commission engage with G7 colleagues to work towards the ending of Israel's most-favoured nation treatment, as was done when Russia illegally invaded Ukraine?
3. Furthermore, did the Commission engage on this issue at the WTO's 14th Ministerial Conference in Cameroon?

Submitted: 14.5.2026

Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(4 August 2026)

The EU applies the most-favoured nation (MFN) principle and its exceptions in accordance with the applicable World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules.

As explained in the response to parliamentary Written Question E-000951/2026 ⁽¹⁾, the MFN treatment for imports into the EU of goods originating in Israel was not part of the package announced by the Commission's President on 10 September 2025 ⁽²⁾.

The Commission proposed a partial suspension of the EU-Israel Association Agreement ⁽³⁾ on certain trade-related matters which would end the preferential conditions granted to Israel for accessing the EU market — which are more favourable than the MFN treatment.

In accordance with the conclusions of the European Council of June 2026, the Member States discussed options on 13 July 2026.

There is currently no discussion in the context of the G7 about Israel's MFN treatment ⁽⁴⁾.

This issue was not part of the agenda of the 14th WTO Ministerial Conference.

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2026-000951_EN.html.

² https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2026-000951-ASW_EN.html.

⁽¹⁾ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2026-000951_EN.html.

⁽²⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_2112.

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

⁽⁴⁾ In the context of this question, it can be noted that the EU joined the 'Joint Statement on aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine with the support of Belarus' (WT/GC/244) in line with the policy set by the Council on Russia. The Statement provides that its signatories 'will take any actions, as WTO Members, that we each consider necessary to protect our essential security interests. These may include actions in support of Ukraine, or actions to suspend concessions or other obligations with respect to the Russian Federation, such as the suspension of most-favoured-nation treatment to products and services of the Russian Federation'. Specifically, the EU put in place specific trade measures (quantitative restrictions, including import and export bans) vis-à-vis Russia on the basis of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) procedure for the adoption of sanctions to give effect to this statement.