

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001801/25
to the Commission
Mounir Satouri (Verts/ALE)
(5 May 2025)**

Subject: Israeli settlement products: alignment of EU policies with UN resolution

On 15 January 2025, in a written response, Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security Maroš Šefčovič stated that the ‘EU positions and policies are fully aligned’ with the UN General Assembly resolution of 13 September 2024 ⁽¹⁾.

However, this resolution, recalling the conclusions of the 19 July 2024 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), calls on all states ‘to take steps towards ceasing the importation of any products originating in the Israeli settlements’.

1. In light of the UN resolution and the ICJ advisory opinion, does the Commission consider that the EU’s differentiation policy — which merely renders Israeli settlement products ineligible for trade preferences under the EU-Israel Association Agreement — is aligned with paragraph 5(b) of said resolution and paragraph 278 of the aforementioned advisory opinion? And if so, on what basis?

2. Does the Commission consider that Member States are violating international law by continuing to allow the trade of Israeli settlement products within the EU market?

3. How does the Commission plan to move forward with the ban on Israeli settlement products?

Submitted: 5.5.2025

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(11 June 2025)**

The EU has been consistently clear in its position that settlements are illegal under international law and repeatedly condemned Israel’s settlement policy and the occupation of the Palestinian territory that began in 1967.

As reiterated by the European Council on 27 June ⁽¹⁾ and 17 October 2024 ⁽²⁾, the EU has recalled the requirement for Israel, in exercising its right to defend itself, to fully comply with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, in all circumstances.

EU positions and policies are fully aligned with United Nations (UN) resolutions on the status of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) and are therefore overall consistent with the conclusions of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) Advisory Opinion on the legal consequences arising from the policies and practices of Israel in the OPT, including East Jerusalem, of 19 July 2024 ⁽³⁾, as regards the duty of non-recognition, the duty to distinguish in the dealings with Israel between its territory and the OPT, and the duty of non-assistance.

With regard to the duty to distinguish in the dealings with Israel between its territory and the OPT, the EU has taken care to fully comply with the obligations set out in paragraph 278 of the ICJ Advisory Opinion of 19 July 2024 and point 4(d) of the UN General Council resolution of 13 September 2024 ⁽⁴⁾.

The Commission continues to monitor the situation in the OPT and has already listed nine individuals and five entities under the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime for serious and systematic human rights abuses against Palestinians in the West Bank.

The EU is firmly committed to a lasting and sustainable peace and has spared no effort to work with partners to revive the political process towards the implementation of a two-state solution.

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2024-002150-ASW_EN.html

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/qa3lblga/euco-conclusions-27062024-en.pdf>.

⁽²⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/2pebccz2/20241017-euco-conclusions-en.pdf>.

⁽³⁾ Summary of the Advisory Opinion of 19 July 2024, <https://www.icj-cij.org/node/204176>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://docs.un.org/en/A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1>.