



Member of the European Parliament

High Representative Catherine Ashton
Vice President / High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

cc: European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Ms Máire Geoghegan-Quinn
European Commission Research Directorate-Generale
Mashreq/Maghreb Working Party

Re: EU guidelines on eligibility of Israeli bodies for EU financial support

Dear High Representative Catherine Ashton,

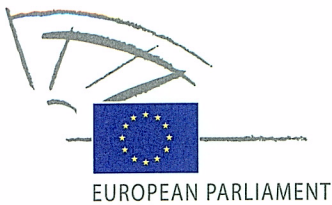
We are writing to you in relation to the guidelines published recently on the eligibility of Israeli bodies for EU financial support that are designed to prevent illegal Israeli settlements from benefiting from funding from the European Union.

We understand that negotiations on Israel's participation in Horizon 2020 are underway, and we note that you are reported as saying you hope to find ways to implement the new guidelines "sensitively". We have read that US Secretary of State John Kerry is pressuring the EU to repeal the new guidelines.

We call on you to implement the guidelines in full as we oppose the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, which are illegal under the Fourth Geneva Convention. Israel's occupation of Palestine and the Israeli government's policy of establishing settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories have been condemned on numerous occasions by the UN Security Council and the International Court of Justice.

Allowing Israeli entities established in the settlements or having activities there to benefit from financial assistance from the EU would mean de facto recognition of the legality of Israel's illegal and immoral settlement policy. These guidelines are therefore in full conformity with international law, which the EU is bound to respect in accordance with Articles 3(5) and 21(1) of the Treaty on European Union.

As confirmed by a 2004 ruling of the International Court of Justice, the EU is under a legal obligation not to render aid or assistance to Israeli violations of international law, including illegal settlements in occupied Palestinian territory. The new guidelines make clear that EU



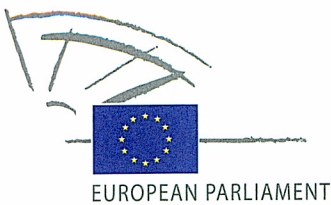
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funding for Israeli projects and bodies located in occupied Palestinian territory amounts to a violation of the EU's obligations under international law. Any decision not to implement the new guidelines fully would amount to a decision to ignore international law.

We feel strongly that Israeli settlements should not benefit from European taxpayers' money and request you to ensure that the guidelines are fully implemented.

Yours sincerely,

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Nessa Childers MEP (Ireland, non-attached)
Nikolaos Chountis (Greece, GUE/NGL)
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Dennis De Jong (The Netherlands, GUE/NGL)
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Fiona Hall MEP (United Kingdom, ALDE)
Jacky Henin (France, GUE/NGL)
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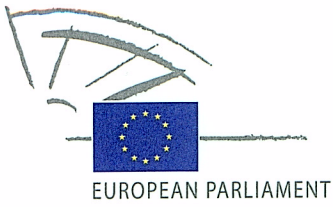
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