

**Question for written answer E-002150/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Implementation of the ICJ advisory opinion as regards EU trade with illegal Israeli settlements

All Member States agree that Israeli settlements are illegal under international law and are an obstacle to a two-state solution, as confirmed by the European Council conclusions of 22 March 2024<sup>1</sup>.

By trading with the illegal Israeli settlements, the EU is not only supporting their continuation and the abuses underpinning them, but also breaching its obligations under international law.

On 19 July 2024, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled<sup>2</sup> that states are under an obligation ‘to abstain from entering into economic or trade dealings with Israel concerning the Occupied Palestinian Territory or parts thereof which may entrench its unlawful presence in the territory; ... and to take steps to prevent trade or investment relations that assist in the maintenance of the illegal situation created by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory’.

The current EU policy of differentiation<sup>3</sup>, whereby goods made in the Israeli settlements are not covered by the EU-Israel Association Agreement but traded through a ‘technical arrangement’, does not comply with the obligations laid out by the ICJ, which require a blanket ban on trade with the settlements.

Will the Commission comply with its obligations under international law and urgently ban all trade with the illegal Israeli settlements?

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<sup>1</sup> Paragraph 26, <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-7-2024-INIT/en/pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Paragraph 278, <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-adv-01-00-en.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> [https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/israel\\_en](https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/israel_en).