

**Question for written answer E-007464/2011
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Alexandra Thein (ALDE), Proinsias De Rossa (S&D), Margrete Auken (Verts/ALE), Véronique De Keyser (S&D), Ivo Vajgl (ALDE), Hélène Flautre (Verts/ALE), Sir Robert Atkins (ECR), Kyriacos Triantaphyllides (GUE/NGL) and Mário David (PPE)

Subject: Framework Programme funding of research activities carried out in Israeli settlements established in occupied territory

Ahava Ltd is a participant in three projects under the Seventh Framework Programme and is a coordinator of one. It has been created under the national law of the State of Israel and maintains a legal address and some physical presence in Israel.

However, Ahava Ltd implements its FP7-supported research activities in laboratories and facilities established in the Israeli settlement of Mitzpe Shalem in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Article 2(1) of the FP7 rules for participation defines a 'legal entity' as 'any natural person, or any legal person created under the national law of its place of establishment, or under Community law or international law, which has legal personality and which may, acting in its own name, exercise rights and be subject to obligations...'

Does Ahava Ltd meet this criterion for participation as a 'legal entity'? Is it also eligible for participation in the FP7 as a legal entity established in the State of Israel pursuant to the Agreement associating Israel with the FP7?

Article 2(1) of the FP7 rules for participation also stipulates that 'in the case of natural persons, references to establishment are deemed to refer to habitual residence....'

Are natural persons that are 'habitually resident' in the territories occupied by Israel in 1967 and declare to the Commission that they are 'habitually resident' (i.e. établis) in the State of Israel in accordance with Israel's legislation and administrative practice eligible for participation pursuant to the Agreement associating Israel with the FP7? Are such natural persons eligible for participation independently of that Agreement?

Is the Commission aware of any provision of EU law that obligates it not to fund activities carried out in Israeli settlements and settlement-based research facilities that have been established in occupied territories in contravention of international law?