

Trade relationships between the European Union and Israel.

The European Union is the main supplier and the second customer of Israel. 40% of Israeli import comes from the EU and 30% of Israeli export goes to Europe. Since 1990 the import and export between both countries have tripled within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Association and the Free Association Agreement.

The Euro-Mediterranean Agreement.

The EU and Israel started to negotiate the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement of Association in 1995 (in the depths of the peace process). This Agreement came into force in 2000, when it is obvious that the peace process was broken through lack of will on the side of Israel.

Within the framework of the agreement of Preferential Association, Israel got a beneficial treaty on customs duty that allows it that two thirds of its exports come to the European Union.

The Agreement of Association between the European Union and Israel must be stopped.

STOP TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH ISRAEL

WHY QUITTING COOPERATION BETWEEN
THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ISRAEL?



However, this agreement has clauses that are systematically infringed:

The respect for democratic principles and Human Rights, that inspire its foreign policy and home office policy.

The principles of the United Nations Charter are established, in particular the respect for Human Rights and democracy as the basis for every relationship.

Israel continuously infringes international legality, Human Rights and the UN Resolutions. Since 1967 Israel illegally occupies the Golan Heights, the east of Jerusalem, Cisjordania and it controls the entrances and exits of the Gaza Strip, in spite of having theoretically retreated. A policy of ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian folk is being carried out since then through the settling of lands, murders, restriction of movements, destruction of houses, policies of apartheid and the building of the Israeli West Bank Barrier in Cisjordania.

The current treaty will be applicable, on the one hand, to the territories where the Constitutive Treaties of the European Union (...) and, on the other hand, to the territory of the State of Israel.

This article restricts the field of application of the agreement to the territory of the State of Israel, and excludes every product that comes from the occupied territories. Nowadays, Israel exports products manufactured in its colonies to Europe, profiting illegally from a preferential regime. By allowing Israel to include its illegal



settlements as part of its territory, it would lead the Community not to fulfil its adhesion to:

1. The customary prohibition against the unilateral annexation of the territory occupied by an occupying power.
2. The 4th Geneva Convention, that stipulates that the occupying power will not be able to carry out the evacuation or transfer from part of its own civilian population to its occupied territories.
3. The Resolutions of the United Nations Security Council 242 and 338, that do not admit the occupied territories as part of Israel, being instead annexed territories by force.

On 10th April 2002 the European Parliament adopted a resolution that asks the Council and the European Commission for the halting of the Agreement of the Euro-Mediterranean Association. This resolution came to nothing when it was not carried out either by the Council or the European Commission.

Granting trade benefits to the products of the illegal colonies means recognising them, promoting colonisation and, therefore, it sets back the search of a fair peace in the area.

The United Nations Assembly has asked the governments to make Israel fulfil the ruling of the International Court of Justice in The Hague on the illegality of the Barrier and the halting of the Agreement. This is a step in that way.

However, it seems that the international community goes in the opposite direction:

At the meeting with members from the OECD and countries with the highest per capita income in the world, held in Paris on 14th and 15th of May 20007, the Spanish Minister Pedro Solbes, acting as the spokesperson, suggested the incorporation of different countries, amongst them Israel, to the future extension of the OECD.

It would not be right to send Israel the message that the actions taken contrary to the international norm can be awarded with institutional normality in different international organizations such as the OECD.

Our duty as responsible citizens, concerned about the fulfilment of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, is to report the actions of Israel and to oppose any measure (existing or simply suggested) that favours Israel commercially while the situation of occupation and apartheid still persists.

