

***EU-Israel Bilateral Relations
in the Framework of International and European Law.
The case of the European Community-Israel Association
Agreement***

Hearing

**at the European Parliament, Thursday 20 June 2002
Meeting Room PHS 4B001**

9 AM – 6 PM

Hosted by MEPs

Mrs. Alima Boumédiène-Thiery (Verts / ALE)
Mrs. Lousewies van der Laan (ELDR)
Mrs. Luisa Morgantini (GUE / NGL)
Mr. Roy Perry (PPE-DE)
Mr. Jannis Sakellariou (PSE)
Mrs. Ulla Sandbæk (EDD)

Organisers

APRODEV – Association of World Council of Churches related Organizations in Europe-, **CIDSE** Coopération internationale pour le Développement et la Solidarité, **ECCP** -European Coordinating Committee of NGOs on the Question of Palestine, **SOLIDAR**

With the support of **EMHRN** -Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network, **FIDH** -Fédération Internationale des Droits de l'Homme, **OMCT** -Organisations Mondiale contre la Torture and **WCC** – World Council of Churches

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-What kind of bilateral relations does the EU have with Israel?

-Why has the European Parliament voted a resolution calling for the suspension of the European Community-Israel Association Agreement?

-Why did the Commission and the Council of the EU not take any measures in this respect?

-Is Israel committing material breaches of the Association Agreement?

-Is Israel committing material breaches of international law and international humanitarian law?

-What is the relationship between the current implementation of the European Community-Israel Association Agreement and development in the Middle East?

-Is the EU complying with its own obligations under European law, international law, international humanitarian law and the Association Agreement, in its relations with Israel?

-Does the EU deal with partner countries equally or with double standards?

-Are there precedents in the EU's practice of suspending treaties with third countries in similar circumstances? Has that been effective?

-How might current EU-Israel relations affect the future of the European Union?

PROGRAM

Official languages: English, French

presentations should not exceed 15 minutes

<u>Thursday 20 June 2002</u>	
9 - 9.20 AM Opening Session	Welcoming by Hosting MEPs

<p>9.20 – 10.45 AM 1st Session</p> <p>“Facts on the Ground: Israeli violations of international and humanitarian law and democratic principles”</p> <p>Chairwoman: MEP Lousewies van der Laan (ELDR)</p>	<p>Khader Shkirat, Director of Law -the Palestinian Society for the protection of Human Rights and Environment <i>Recent relevant reports on Israeli violations of human rights and democratic principles in the Palestinian Occupied Territories</i></p> <p>Uri Davis -AL-BEIT: Association for the Defence of Human Rights in Israel, Jerusalem; Senior Research Fellow at the University of Durham & Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Exeter, UK <i>Legislation of citizenship in "Israeli democracy"</i></p> <p>Hamdi Y. H. Shaqqura -coordinator of the Democratic Development Unit of the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, Palestine <i>Israeli violations of international humanitarian law since the out-break of al-Aqsa intifada in September 2000</i></p> <p>Jeff Halper -Israeli Committee against House Demolition <i>Israeli violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the Occupied Palestinian Territories</i></p> <p>Mohamed Zeidan (director of the Arab Association for Human Rights, Israel <i>Recent relevant reports on Israeli violations of human rights and democratic principles. Discriminating practices against the Palestinian Arab minority in Israel</i></p>
<p>10.45 – 11.30 AM</p>	<p>Debate with the participation of the Suhad Bishara, lawyer, representative of Adalah -the Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel</p>
<p>11.30 – 12 AM</p>	<p>Break & Press Meeting Point</p>
<p>12 AM –12.30 AM 2nd Session</p> <p>“EU’s practices from other areas in the world”</p> <p>Chairwoman MEP Véronique de Keyser (PSE)</p>	<p>Paulette Pierson-Mathy -Professor of International Law at the ULB, Brussels <i>The European experience with South Africa and Namibia</i></p> <p>Androulla Kaminara –cabinet of Poul Nielson, Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid <i>Essential elements of the EU-ACP agreement - the respect for human rights and democratic principles: cases examples</i></p>
<p>12.30 AM – 1.30 PM</p>	<p>Debate</p>
<p>1.30 – 3 PM</p>	<p>Lunch break At the canteen of the European Parliament Building ASP level –1</p>

<p>3 – 4 PM 3rd Session</p> <p>“Juridical, political and economic aspects of the EU-Israel Association Agreement. Focus on the EU”</p> <p>Chairwoman: MEP Ulla Sandbæk (EDD)</p>	<p>Charles Shamas -the Mattin Group, an economically focused voluntary partnership specialized in international human rights and humanitarian law enforcement, Palestine <i>Some Problems in the European Community’s implementation of the EC-Israel Association Agreement in accordance with European and International Law: The Territorial Scope of the Agreement and its Human Rights Article</i></p> <p>Esa Paasivirta -Legal Service of the European Commission <i>Respect for Human Rights and democratic principles in the EU’s external relations: the case of Israel</i></p> <p>Rosa Maria Lopez-Jorin –Head of Unit Rules of origin, Taxud, European Commission’s Directorate General for taxation and customs union <i>The European Commission’s role, as ‘guardian of the treaties’, in ensuring the proper application of external agreements by partner countries, including their territorial scope and rules of origin. The case of Israel</i></p>
<p>4 – 5 PM</p>	<p>Debate</p>
<p>5.15 – 6 PM</p> <p>Conclusions</p> <p>Chairwoman: MEP Luisa Morgantini (GUE / NGL) Chairman of the Delegation for Relations with the Palestinian legislative Council</p>	<p>Christian Leffler -Director of Directorate F for Middle East and South Mediterranean, European Commission’s Directorate General for External Relations <i>European Union dialogue and cooperation with Israel in the framework of the Association Agreement</i></p> <p>Luisa Morgantini –Chairman of the Delegation for Relations with the Palestinian legislative Council <i>A European Parliamentary agenda for ensuring Israeli compliance with its obligations to respect human rights and democratic principles</i></p> <p>Giovanna Lelli -Aprodev Coordinator for Palestinian and Israeli issues, on behalf of the organizers <i>Common declaration and NGOs agenda for gaining the compliance of the European Community and Israel with their obligations concerning respect for human rights and democratic principles in their bilateral relations</i></p>