



European Parliament
Mr. President David Maria Sassoli
Wiertzstraat 200
1047 Brussels
Belgium

Zurich, 20 November 2019

CJEU ruling on declaration of products from Israeli settlements

Dear Mr President

In its judgment of 12 November 2019 concerning the interpretation of Regulation (EU) No. 1169/2011, the Court of Justice of the European Union ruled that foodstuffs originating in territories occupied by the State of Israel must bear not only the indication of that territory but also, where those foodstuffs come from a locality or a group of localities constituting an Israeli settlement within that territory, the indication of that provenance. The ruling was based on the application and interpretation of the EU Regulation on the provision of food information to consumers.

Allow us to express our concern at this ruling. One of the grounds given for the judgment is that consumers might be misled as to the fact that the State of Israel is present in those territories as an occupying power. This position reflects a partial, if not biased, view of the situation. Once again, of all the many parties involved in conflicts over territorial disputes, Israel has been singled out for “special treatment”.

This obviously prejudicial treatment of Israel is particularly disturbing in the current context of growing antisemitism in Europe. The increasing sense of uncertainty and threat among its Jewish population reflects poorly on Europe. This puts even more of an onus on the EU and its Member States to show solidarity with Israel as a safe home rather than putting it at a disadvantage.

We therefore kindly request you

- to amend the Regulation on the provision of food information to consumers in such a way that any interpretation which discriminates against Israel is avoided; and
- to amend other relevant norms in such a way that the battle against antisemitism in Europe is not reduced to mere lip service.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Corina Eichenberger-Walther'.

Corina Eichenberger-Walther, MP
President EAI

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'L. Blum'.

Lukas Blum
General Secretary EAI