

Brussels, **21 JUN 2017**
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To all MEP signatories of the letter regarding the demolitions and the situation of the Bedouin Communities in the West Bank

Dear Colleagues,

I would hereby like to thank you for your letter and for sharing your continued concerns regarding the situation in the occupied Palestinian territory.

I share your concerns, notably regarding the situation of Bedouin communities in the West Bank and Israeli settlement expansion, which imperils the prospect of a two-state solution.

I have explained in a previous letter how the EU institutions and Member States, through cooperation and coordination of messages and through engagement with the parties, ensure that our views are clearly conveyed at all levels.

As you point out, article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement stipulates that relations between the EU and Israel, as well as all the provisions of the Agreement itself, shall be based on respect for human rights and democratic principles.

Article 79 of the same Agreement allows either party to take "appropriate measures" should it consider that the other side has failed to fulfil an obligation under the Agreement. In doing so, the parties are bound to take steps "which least disturb the functioning of the Agreement", and only after having previously sought "a solution acceptable to the Parties".

Accordingly, while the EU reserves the right to do so, it is not currently considering calling for the suspension of the Association Agreement with Israel.

Until such time, regular and frank dialogue will remain the primary means by which we convey our concerns to our Israeli partners.

Sincerely,



Federica Mogherini