

Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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House of Commons Written Answer

Israel: Trade Agreements

David Drew (Labour Co-op) [226022] To ask the Secretary of State for International Trade, with reference to the announcement, UK and Israel sign trade continuity agreement, published by his Department on 18 February 2019, whether the provisions of that agreement will extend to Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

George Hollingbery: The UK and Israel have a strong and important trading relationship. However, we do not recognise the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including the settlements, as part of Israel. We sought to ensure continuity in our trading relationship, not to renegotiate terms. The OPTs are not covered by the current EU-Israel Trade Agreements, nor by the UK-Israel Agreement.

On 18th February 2019, we also signed an agreement with the Palestinian Authority, which transitions the current EU Interim Association Agreement.

The agreements have now been laid in Parliament and published on gov.uk, alongside a full report.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2019-02-26/226022/>

The trade agreement with Israel, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/781440/CS_Israel_1.2019_Trade.pdf

with an Explanatory Memorandum at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/781559/EM_CS_Israel_1.2019.odt

The trade agreement with the Palestinian Authority, referred to above, can be read at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/781389/MS_14.2019_IPTP_PLO.pdf

with an Explanatory Memorandum at

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/781563/EM_MS_14.2019_PLO.odt

The report relating to Israel referred to above can be read at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/781446/continuing-the-uks-trade-relationship-with-israel.pdf

The report relating to the Palestinian Authority referred to above can be read at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/781450/continuing-the-uks-trade-relationship-with-the-palestinian-authority.pdf

UK Parliament Early Day Motion

Richard Burden (Labour) (2161) UN Commission of Inquiry Report on Gaza Protests
– That this House welcomes the independent UN Commission of Inquiry report on protests in Gaza; notes with the deepest concern its findings that, in its widespread use of force against demonstrators, Israeli security forces committed violations of international law which may constitute war crimes or crimes against humanity; condemns the prevailing impunity for the killing and injuring of medics, journalists, children, and persons who pose no imminent threat of death or serious injury to those around them; further notes with concern the finding that, while the protests were civilian in nature, the de-facto authorities in Gaza encouraged or defended the use of incendiary kites and balloons which caused damage and fear in southern Israel; and calls on the Government to support the Commission's report at the Human Rights Council and do its part in implementing the report's recommendations relating to preventing future violations, ensuring accountability, and lifting the blockade and closure of Gaza.

<https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/52658/un-commission-of-inquiry-report-on-gaza-protests>

The report referred to above can be read at https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/CoIOPT/A_HRC_40_74.pdf

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Relevant Legislation ** new or updated today

UK Parliament

Holocaust (Return of Cultural Objects) (Amendment) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/holocaustreturnofculturalobjectsamendment.html>

International Development Assistance (Palestinian National Authority Schools) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/internationaldevelopmentassistancepalestiniannationalauthoritieschools.html>

Marriage Act 1949 (Amendment) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/marriageact1949amendment.html>

Online Forums Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/onlineforums.html>

Organ Donation (Deemed Consent) Bill

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2017-19/organdonationdeemedconsent.html>

Palestinian Statehood (Recognition) Bill

<https://services.parliament.uk/Bills/2017-19/palestinianstatehoodrecognition.html>

Scottish Parliament

Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Scotland) Bill

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/108681.aspx>

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Consultations

** new or updated today

**** closes in 7 days**

Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission – Draft Strategic Plan 2019-22

(closing date 15 March 2019)

<http://www.nihrc.org/news/detail/ni-human-rights-commission-draft-strategic-plan-2019-2022-consultation>

Scottish charity law (closing date 1 April 2019)

<https://tinyurl.com/y9ln88df>

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The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) is Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438