

# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

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## Israel

### Foreign and Commonwealth Office

**Updated Guidance: Foreign Travel Advice: Israel**  
<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/israel>

### European Union

#### **Statement by the Spokesperson on the security situation in Israel and Gaza**

This morning, Israel conducted an operation inside Gaza targeting a senior leader of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad. In response, rockets were fired from Gaza on southern and central Israel. The firing of rockets on civilian populations is totally unacceptable and must immediately stop. A rapid and complete de-escalation is now necessary to safeguard the lives and security of Palestinian and Israeli civilians. The European Union fully supports the efforts of Egypt in this regard. As the EU has consistently reiterated, only a political solution can put an end to these continuing cycles of violence.

[https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/70279/statement-spokesperson-security-situation-israel-and-gaza\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/70279/statement-spokesperson-security-situation-israel-and-gaza_en)

### Court of Justice of the European Union

**Foodstuffs originating in the territories occupied by the State of Israel must bear the indication of their territory of origin, accompanied, where those foodstuffs come from an Israeli settlement within that territory, by the indication of that provenance**

... First, the Court observed that the country of origin or the place of provenance of a foodstuff must, in accordance with Articles 9 and 26 of Regulation No 1169/2011, be indicated where failure to indicate this might mislead consumers into believing that that foodstuff has a country of origin or a place of provenance different from its true country of origin or place of provenance. In addition, it noted that, where the origin or provenance is indicated on a foodstuff, it must not be deceptive.

Secondly, the Court clarified both the interpretation of the concept of 'country of origin' and that of the terms 'country' and 'territory' ...

As regards the term 'country', which is used numerous times in the TEU [Treaty on European Union] and the TFEU [Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union] as a synonym for the term 'State', the Court noted that, in order to ensure the consistent interpretation of EU law, the same meaning should be given to that term in the Union Customs Code and, consequently, in Regulation No 1169/2011. 'State' refers to a sovereign entity exercising, within its geographical boundaries, the full range of powers recognised by international law. As regards the term 'territory', the Court noted that it follows from the very wording of the Union Customs Code that that term refers to entities other than 'countries' and, therefore, other than 'States'. In that context, the Court stated that displaying, on foodstuffs, the indication that the State of Israel is their 'country of origin', when those foodstuffs actually originate in one of the territories which – while each has its own international status distinct from the State of Israel – are occupied by that State and subject to a limited jurisdiction of the latter, as an occupying power within the meaning of international humanitarian law, would be liable to mislead consumers. Consequently, the Court held that the indication of the territory of origin of the foodstuffs in question is mandatory, within the meaning of Regulation No 1169/2011, in order to prevent consumers from being misled as to the fact that the State of Israel is present in the territories concerned as an occupying power and not as a sovereign entity.

Thirdly and lastly, the Court stated that the concept of 'place of provenance must be understood as referring to any specific geographical area within the country or territory of origin of a foodstuff, with the exception of a producer's address. Thus, the indication that a foodstuff comes from an 'Israeli settlement' located in one of the 'territories occupied by the State of Israel' may be regarded as an indication of the 'place of provenance', provided that the term 'settlement' refers to a specific geographical area.

In addition, as regards the issue whether the indication 'Israeli settlement' is mandatory, the Court first of all underlined that the settlements established in some of the territories occupied by the State of Israel are characterised by the fact that they give concrete expression to a policy of population transfer conducted by that State outside its territory, in violation of the rules of general international humanitarian law. The Court then held that the omission of that indication, with the result that only the territory of origin is indicated, might mislead consumers. Consumers have no way of knowing, in the absence of any information capable of enlightening them in that respect, that a foodstuff comes from a locality or a set of localities constituting a settlement established in one of those territories in breach of the rules of international humanitarian law. The Court noted that, under Regulation No 1169/2011, the provision of information to consumers must enable them to make informed choices, with regard not only to health, economic, environmental and social considerations, but also to ethical considerations and considerations relating to the observance of international law. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2019-11/cp190140en.pdf>

**To read the full judgement see**

<http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?jsessionid=D1AE7CA04942587AAFC6FF3CA7093F95?text=&docid=220534&pageIndex=0&doclang=EN&mode=req&dir=&oc c=first&part=1&cid=1482331>

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## Relevant Legislation \*\* new or updated today

### Scottish Parliament

#### **Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill**

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/112997.aspx>

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## Consultations \*\* new or updated today

**\*\* closes in 7 days**

**Welsh Government Strategic Equality Objectives 2020-24** (closing date 19 November 2019)

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2019-09/strategic-equality-objectives-2020-2024-consultation.pdf>

**Draft content of the Human Tissue (Authorisation) (Specified Type A Procedures) (Scotland) Regulations** (closing date 11 December 2019)

<https://consult.gov.scot/population-health/human-tissue-regulations-2019/>

**Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill** (closing date 31 January 2020)

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/113449.aspx>

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