

5 November 2013

The Rt. Hon. Baroness Ashton of Upholland
High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
European Union

Dear Lady Ashton,

Reports are appearing with worrying frequency that European Union and Israeli officials are close to agreement on a weakening of the Commission's *Guidelines on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards*.¹ We have been particularly disturbed to read in Israeli media that one of these changes removes the obligation of Israeli grant applicants to make a formal declaration that the activities for which they seek funds will not take place, in whole or in part, in the Occupied Territories; this leaves it up to the EU to try to identify breaches. Another change means that any European funds recipient needs only to have its HQ registered at an Israeli postcode to be eligible, even if the bulk of its activities are in the Occupied Territories.

Israeli settlements in the Occupied Territories are in breach of international law. The Guidelines are the first significant steps taken by the EU towards embodying recognition of that fact in concrete actions. To now deliberately engineer gaping loopholes in those Guidelines would be an act unworthy of both the European Union and the academic-scientific community it serves. We urge you to maintain the integrity of the Guidelines, as the first modest step in demonstrating to the Israeli government that their actions have consequences.

Yours sincerely

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¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2013:205:0009:0011:EN:PDF>

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