

# **PETITION TO FIGHT FOR FAIRNESS AND STOP THE EU DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ISRAEL**

Dear Catherine Ashton,

## **EU'S NEW GUIDELINES DISCRIMINATE AGAINST ONLY ONE COUNTRY IN THE WORLD: ISRAEL**

On behalf of all the signatories around the world who believe in fairness, we hereby ask that the European Union revoke the Guidelines that blatantly discriminate against Israel and are scheduled to go into effect January 1, 2014.

### **The Guidelines uniquely discriminate against Israel and Israeli Jews.**

- They dictate where Jews may or may not live and work, regardless of the international status of the territories in question.
- They explicitly exclude West Bank Palestinians from their punitive directives and Israeli entities that help Palestinians—but not those who help Israeli Jews.
- The EU has not issued similar guidelines for the roughly 200 territorial disputes worldwide where nations operate on disputed territory, such as Morocco (Western Sahara), Turkey (Northern Cyprus), China (Tibet), Spain (Ceuta and Melilla), and others. In fact, the EU has expanded its trade with many of those countries.

### **The Guidelines contradict international law and EU legal precedents.**

- International law does not prohibit businesses from operating in “occupied territory” or require denial of services to people living in “occupied territory.”
- In 2013, a French court ruled that the EU companies do not violate international law when they carry on trade with or operate in disputed the territories.

### **The Guidelines are intended to damage Israel economically.**

- The Guidelines jeopardize Israel’s trade with the EU, its largest foreign trade partner. In 2012, 31% of Israel’s foreign exports were sold to the EU, amounting to \$14.4 billion.
- Some of Israel’s most successful companies have plants or offices over the Green Line as well as in Israel proper, like Ahava and Sodastream.

### **The Guidelines will undermine Israelis’ ability to participate in high level research in multiple fields.**

- Some Israeli researchers and research institutes could be disqualified from EU research and grants because they live or are located over the Green Line. For example, some of Hebrew University’s dorms are over the Green Line.

- The Guidelines threaten to setback Israeli researchers. Since 1996, over 1,584 Israeli researchers have been part of more than 1,300 EU research and development projects and received nearly 640 million Euros in grant money. Israelis could now be disqualified from these projects.
- Israeli researchers may be unable to participate in the prestigious \$110 billion EU Horizon 2020 project because the Guidelines discriminate against Judea and Samaria. In early November, Israel suggested compromises that would allow the Horizon project to proceed.

**The Guidelines are an attempt to force Israel to withdraw from all the Territories, a violation of UN resolutions and international agreements.**

- UN resolutions 242 and 338 stipulated that future borders with neighboring countries were to be determined through bilateral negotiations, not through unilateral EU diktats.
- The Oslo Accords, which the EU witnessed and approved, regard the West Bank as disputed territory whose future borders are to be determined solely through Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

**The Guidelines subvert current negotiations and make a mockery of the peace process.**

- They preempt the peace process, dictating what final borders should be instead of waiting for compromises that the Israelis and Palestinians must reach through negotiations.
- They blame Israel alone for the lack of peace, ignoring Palestinian intransigence and incitement.
- They support Palestinians' maximalist territorial demands.
- They take away all incentive for Palestinians to negotiate in good faith.

**The Guidelines deny Jewish rights and recognition of the fact that the West Bank is disputed territory.**

- The San Remo conference, the League of Nations, and the UN (Article 80) confirmed the Jews' indigenous, historic, and legal rights to settle in the currently disputed territories. The disposition of this disputed territory is to be determined through Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.
- Over 1,100 jurists and legal scholars from around the world wrote the EU to revoke the Guidelines because they are "legally flawed."

**The Guidelines do not distinguish between types or locations of settlements, perpetuating misinformation and prejudice.**

- They perpetuate the myth that a suburb of Jerusalem is indistinguishable from a hilltop mobile home located in an outpost that Israel has neither authorized nor approved.
- They do not acknowledge that the vast majority of settlers live in settlements adjacent to the Green Line, which most peace proposals have assumed will remain part of Israel in what is termed the "consensus settlements."
- They will make it impossible for high level researchers to participate in European funded research projects if they live in Jerusalem's suburbs or another community close to the Green Line.

**The Guidelines are inhumane. They will damage Palestinians as well as Israelis.**

- Almost 100,000 Palestinians work in Israel and Israeli settlements in the West Bank. They earn twice as much on average as Palestinians who work in the Palestinian Authority. These workers also support thousands of other Palestinians financially.
- The thousands of Palestinian and Israeli Jews who work together in the Barkan zone where they have “created an atmosphere of camaraderie and mutual respect,” will be harmed. Palestinian businessmen have also invested in the Barkan industrial zone.
- Approximately 16,000 West Bank Palestinian businessmen have founded companies and factories in Israel and the industrial zones of Jewish settlements in the West Bank, according to a 2012 study.

**The Guidelines are **discriminatory** and **destructive**.**

**They should be revoked.**