



STRONGER TOGETHER

**CONGRESS**

Irish Congress of Trade Unions

Mr. Paul Murphy MEP,  
Parlement européen  
Bât. Altiero Spinelli  
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B-1047 Bruxelles/Brussel

Dear Mr. Murphy,

On behalf of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions [ICTU], I am writing to share our concerns with you regarding the forthcoming vote on the EU-Israel ACAA protocol.

As a member of the European Parliament Committee on International Trade [INTA], you will get the opportunity to vote on the EU-Israel ACAA protocol at the beginning of May.

We call on you to vote for a suspension of the assent procedure to this protocol until Israel complies with several fundamental international humanitarian law and human rights law standards.

The ICTU believes, along with our European colleagues in the ETUC, that the EU should not further deepen political and economic relations bilaterally with the Government of Israel, in particular while settlements continue, but should draw up a coherent policy for the region (ETUC Congress in Athens *Strategy and Action Plan 2011-15*, para 9.16).

The Treaty of the European Union refers to the obligation of the Union to “ensure consistency between the areas of its external action” (Article 21 TEU). While Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement states that the “Relations between the Parties, as well as all the provisions of the Agreement itself, shall be based on respect for human rights and democratic principles, which guides their internal and international policy and constitutes an essential element of this Agreement”. The EU has firmly condemned Israel’s policies and practices that violate international law, as expressed in its 2009 Council Conclusions. The expansion of the EU’s trade relations must be coherent with its declarations and agreements.

In 2008 the European Parliament withheld assent to the Protocol on the participation of Israel in Community Programs for similar reasons.

We hope the same considerations will prevail over the vote on the ACAA protocol.

Yours sincerely,

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