



EUROPEAN UNION

**Delegation of the European Commission
to the State of Israel**

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PRESS RELEASE

Statement by Ambassador Giancarlo Chevallard, Head of the European Commission Delegation Regarding the Nationality and Entry into Israel Law (Temporary Order) 2003

The European Commission has taken note that the Nationality and Entry Into Israel Law (Temporary Order) 2003 approved last Thursday by the Knesset establishes a discriminatory regime to the detriment of Palestinians in the highly sensitive area of family rights.

It will examine the compatibility of this legislation with regard to international law and basic standards of human rights. The Delegation stresses that under the EU-Israel Association Agreement, Israeli respect for human rights constitutes an essential element of its relationship with the European Union. Moreover, the closer cooperative relations between Israel and the EU now being discussed in the framework of the Wider Europe initiative presupposes improved respect for human rights by Israel as by any other EU partner.

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