



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Commission
to the State of Israel

18 August 2004

Ref: D/0388/2004
EG/am

Dear Ms. Kohn,

Subject: Extension of the Nationality and Entry in Israel Law (Temporary Order) 2003
Ref: Your letter of 4 August 2004 to Mr. Giaufret

Thank you for your letter with its extensive analysis of the implications of the extension of the Nationality and Entry in Israel Law (Temporary Order) 2003.

As you yourself note, in August 2003 the Delegation published a press release expressing its concerns at the enactment of the Temporary Order. In his January 2004 written answer to MEP Daniel Cohn Bendit, Commissioner Patten noted, inter alia, that the Temporary Order "raises issues of concern in relation to potential discrimination in the highly sensitive issue area of family rights" and indicated that the Commission would be "following carefully the practical modalities of this law". Since then, the Commission, taking into account the opinions of the UN Human Rights Committee and the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, has reiterated its concerns to the Israeli authorities making reference to Israel's obligations both under the Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreement and under international human rights conventions to which it is party. The Nationality and Entry Law is also one of the issues that the Commission keeps in mind in the broader context of EU-Israel relations for example the on going discussions on the European Neighbourhood Policy. We believe that this is the best policy to follow at the moment.

The Delegations deeply appreciates the professional briefings that Adalah provides on this and other issues and encourages you to continue providing us with updates.

Yours sincerely

Emanule Giaufret
Head of the Political Section