

# Dutch economic links with the occupation

A research paper prepared for  
Cordaid, ICCO and IKV Pax Christi



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## Summary

Since 1967, Israel has occupied the West Bank (including East-Jerusalem), the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights. These territories are beyond the Green Line, which is the internationally recognized border of the State of Israel. Israel has established settlements in these occupied territories, which is illegal according to international law, for instance the Fourth Geneva Convention, the Hague Convention and many UN Security Council resolutions.

Israel's settlements in the Gaza Strip were only dismantled in August 2005. On the West Bank and the Golan Heights, however, settlements are expanding and new ones are being established. These settlements are a source of severe and systematic human rights violations, harming the daily lives of millions of Palestinians and a few thousand Syrians living under Israeli occupation. Moreover, these settlements pose a serious obstacle to peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

Business activities in the settlements and the associated industrial zones are very important for their economic viability. Agricultural companies producing fruit, vegetables and flowers play a major role, but industries producing food products, plastic products, cosmetics, and many other goods are also relevant for the economy of the settlements. Many international corporations have trade and investment links with these settlement companies, making themselves complicit in activities that cause human rights violations.

Cordaid, ICCO and IKV Pax Christi – three Dutch peace and development organizations - advocate a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in accordance with international law. In the view of these organizations, international trade relationships with the occupation forces obstruct such a resolution. The organizations has therefore commissioned this report, which aims to identify the Dutch economic links with the occupation of Palestinian and Syrian territories by Israel.

This report explores the trade and investment relationships between companies located in Israeli settlements or profiting from the occupation of the Palestinian territories and the Golan Heights on the one hand, and the Netherlands on the other hand. Trade and investment relationships researched include the supply of products produced by companies located in Israeli settlements in the occupied territories (*settlement products*) to Dutch customers; the supply of products or services by Dutch companies to settlement activities; and investments by settlement companies in the Netherlands.

This report is based on desk research as well as a limited number of shop visits. Inevitably, the overview will not be complete as not all economic relationships are documented in public sources or are transparent to consumers visiting Dutch shops. The uncertainty on specific trade and investment links also highlights one of the features of the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories, which is that the economy of the settlements is so closely integrated into that of Israel itself that distinguishing between the two is very difficult.

Reliable figures on the trade between the settlements and the Netherlands are not available. Data on the exports of settlement products are amalgamated into the trade statistics of Israel itself. These trade statistics show that the Netherlands are a very important trading partner for Israel, with Israeli exports to the Netherlands reaching a value of US\$ 2.3 billion in 2012, 3.6% of the value of all Israeli exports.

Estimates on which share of the Israeli exports consists of settlement products vary considerably. It has to be assumed that the estimations of around 1% based on information from the Israeli government are much too low. Independent sources suggest that when exports of goods wholly or partially produced in occupied territories are included, the share is more likely to amount to one third of Israeli exports.

While not quantitative in terms of the volumes and values of exports of settlement products to Europe, this study provides a broad inventory of trade and investment links between companies located in Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories on the one hand and the Netherlands on the other hand. We found settlement products to be sold via various channels - ranging from small groceries to well-known web-shops and large supermarket chains and department stores.

According to the *EU-Israel Association Agreement*, concluded in June 2000, Israeli exports to the European Union are exempted from import duties. The EU has long argued that settlement products are not eligible for trade benefits and since February 2005 an agreement has come into effect demanding that Israeli goods exported to the EU be marked with their place of origin based on postal codes. This should enable the customs authorities of the EU member states to distinguish Israeli products from settlement products. However, in the case that trade documents show the postal code of the Israeli headquarter rather than the postal code of the production location, settlement products are likely not to be recognized. It is thus unknown whether this agreement is effective in applying higher import duties to settlement products. What is clear, is that the agreement does not prevent settlements products to enter the EU market, as it does not intend to do so.

Also, this postal code labelling only has to be visible to customs authorities, not to consumers. Despite existing EU consumer law requiring especially for foodstuffs the correct labelling of the place of origin, settlement products placed on the Dutch market are still not easily identifiable for consumers, as they are usually labelled as “Made in Israel”. However, this situation may change soon, as the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs has published in March 2013 an advice on clearly labelling settlement products as such, instead of labelling them as originating from Israel. This would apply to agricultural products that require a label, such as fresh vegetables, fruit, wine, honey, olive oil, and cosmetics products. This advice is in line with the May 2012 statement of EU foreign ministers to fully implement EU legislation and the bilateral agreements applicable to products from settlements. EU legislation and the bilateral arrangements applicable to settlement products

Despite the lack of transparency meaning that products labelled as “Made in Israel” available on the Dutch market do originate from occupied territories, in this research a total of 18 Israeli settlement companies exporting to the Netherlands were identified:

- Fruit and vegetables: AdaFresh, Agrexco/Carmel, Arava Export Growers, Edom Fruits, Hadiklaim, Mehadrin Group
- Other food products: Abady Bakery, Achdut, Shamir Salads
- Wine: Golan Heights Winery, Tishbi Estate Winery
- Other beverages: SodaStream
- Cosmetics: Ahava Dead Sea Laboratories
- Plastic products: Keter Group, Ram Quality Products (Tip Top Toys)
- Metal products: A.R.I. Flow Control, Barkan Mounts
- Chemical products: Bio-Lab

In most cases these companies export products produced in settlements in the occupied territories to the Netherlands, sometimes mixed with products produced in Israel. In some cases the exported products are produced solely in Israel, but the company is listed here as it has a major office or factory in the settlements.

For these 18 companies a total of 38 Dutch trading partners were found: seven Dutch marketing subsidiaries of the Israeli companies concerned and 31 Dutch importers and retailers. Considering the importance of the Netherlands for Israeli agricultural exports, it can be assumed that more products from settlements are available on the Dutch market than can be identified. Fruit and vegetables exported by settlement companies can be connected to several of the Dutch supermarket chains, but are difficult to recognize in the shops as fresh produce is often packaged and presented as private label produce or in neutral boxes that do not carry details on the producer or importer.

Besides these, several other business relations connecting the Netherlands to the occupied territories are included in this report:

- Four Israeli companies with direct links to the occupation have been found that conduct other business activities on the Dutch market: Better Place, Delek Group, Eden Springs/Mayanot Eden and Egged Israel Transport;
- One subsidiary of a Dutch company directly active in settlements was identified: Kardan;
- One Dutch company profiting from providing services to occupation-related Israeli government authorities was found: Gemalto;
- One Israeli defence company was found to have a business relation with the Dutch army: Elbit Systems.



## Introduction

The Dutch peace and development aid organizations Cordaid, ICCO and IKV Pax Christi advocate a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in accordance with international law. International trade relationships with settlements which are illegal under international law and involve serious human rights violations, obstruct such a resolution and contribute to the economic viability of settlements. The organizations ask international companies to withdraw from the settlements and the associated industrial zones and to cut business ties to companies profiting from the occupation.

In 2006, Profundo researched for the first time the economic links between the Netherlands and the occupied Palestinian and Syrian territories on behalf of United Civilians for Peace (UCP), a coalition of Dutch NGOs, mapping 35 Dutch companies with direct or indirect relationships with the occupation. New information prompted an update of parts of the study in 2010, concentrating on eight companies involved in significant trade links between the Netherlands and the Israeli occupation or because there was reason to believe their relationship with the settlements had changed since the publication of the previous report.

This new update study done on behalf of Cordaid, ICCO and IKV Pax Christi examines previously described as well as new economic relations of the Netherlands with companies or activities profiting from the occupation of Palestinian and Syrian territories. These can be economic links existing between Dutch companies and governments on the one hand, and companies located in Israeli settlements or profiting from the occupation on the other hand, as well as Israeli government institutions involved in the occupation. Several of the companies researched in 2010 can be found back in this report with updates on developments since then.

The report is organized as follows:

Chapter 2 provides an overview of the economy of the settlements, summarizing the historic developments (paragraph 2.1) and the impact of the occupation on the economic and humanitarian situation of Palestinians (paragraph 2.2). Paragraph 2.3 is focusing on the economic relationships between the settlements and the European Union, while paragraph 2.4 is summarizing relevant human rights and consumer rights legislation.

Chapter 3 is looking in more detail at the relationships between Israel and the Netherlands, including diplomatic links (paragraph 3.1) as well as trade and economic agreements (paragraph 3.2). Paragraph 3.3 gives an overview of the Dutch position on the settlements and paragraph 3.5 summarizes the trade volumes between Israel and the Netherlands.

Chapter 4 gives an overview of recent developments since previous research was published, including updates on companies moving out of settlements or delisting products (paragraph 4.2), as well as divestments by financial institutions (paragraph 4.3) and the new labeling requirements introduced and law on banning settlement produce proposed by South Africa (paragraph 4.4).

The information found on companies profiting directly or indirectly from the occupation, or links to Dutch institutions, are split into several chapters. Overlap of the categories could not be completely excluded. Chapter 5 lists settlement companies exporting various kind of products to the Netherlands, Chapter 6 provides information on Dutch companies owned by settlement companies. Dutch companies trading with settlements are listed in Chapter 7, split into Dutch companies importing from settlements and Dutch companies that are themselves active in settlements. Other Dutch business links with the occupation are summarized in Chapter 8.

A summary of the findings can be found on the first pages of the report.

## Chapter 1 Methodology

This research investigates different kinds of companies profiting from the Israeli occupation of Palestine and links between the Netherlands and such companies.

The following definitions have been used in this research:

- *Israeli settlements*: All Israeli settlements in occupied Palestinian and Syrian territories, inside the Green Line of 1948.
- *Dutch companies*: Companies and financial institutions (legal entities) established in the Netherlands, regardless of whether they are owned by (a) Dutch or foreign owner(s).
- *Dutch governments*: all national, provincial and local governments and government institutions in the Netherlands.
  
- Companies in Israeli settlements:
  - Independent companies based in Israeli settlements;
  - Subsidiaries (of an Israeli or foreign parent company) located in Israeli settlements;
  - The (Israeli or foreign) parent company of a subsidiary established in an Israeli settlement, if the relevant subsidiary company is one of the few production sites of the parent company and therefore contributes substantially to the total turnover of the parent company supplies;
  - Israeli agricultural trading companies that source a substantial portion of their supplies from agricultural farms in Israeli settlements.
  
- Companies and government institutions which profit from the occupation:
  - Israeli government institutions, such as the army, which are directly involved in the Israeli occupation;
  - Companies that supply weapons and security products and - services to the Israeli army;
  - Companies involved in the construction of the Israeli separation wall between Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories;
  - Companies and financial institutions providing infrastructural or financial services in occupied Palestinian territories.
  
- Economic relations:
  - Supply of goods or services (including licenses);
  - Financial investments.

Economic relations with foreign companies which have a subsidiary in the Netherlands, fall outside the definition used here if the Dutch subsidiary is not actively involved in the economic relationship with the occupation.

The study focuses on economic relations which continued to exist during the study period or are known to have existed after 1 January 2011.

In order to identify these relationships, results from previous Profundo research were checked for recent developments. Broad desk research was performed in order to check for additional business relations, using company information, annual reports, official company registers, media databases, NGO reports, and various other sources. Extensive use was made of the online database "*Who Profits*", a service provided by the Israeli organization *Coalition of Women for Peace*. It provides a vast amount of information and analysis on Israeli and foreign businesses profiting directly or indirectly from the occupation.

For settlement companies exporting goods to the Dutch market, research on business relationships with importers, wholesalers or retailers active on the Dutch market was conducted, for example through searching for company links in business media archives or checking web-shops for the products. In order to create a snapshot impression of the presence on the Dutch market of consumer products that were identified in the desk research as being linked to settlements, more than 68 randomly chosen branches of 29 retailers in nine Dutch cities were visited during the months of January and February 2013. As many of the settlement products that can be linked to the Netherlands are food products, most visits were paid to food retailers. Other shops were chosen in relation to the various other products that have been identified, e.g. cosmetics or plastic products. While it was aimed to spread the visits geographically and across different retail chains, for resource and timing reasons this research was not set up as a systematic mapping of the Dutch retail market, but as a random sampling to get an impression of the situation. Where settlement products have been identified, the results of the shop visits are included in the company profiles and listed in Appendix 1

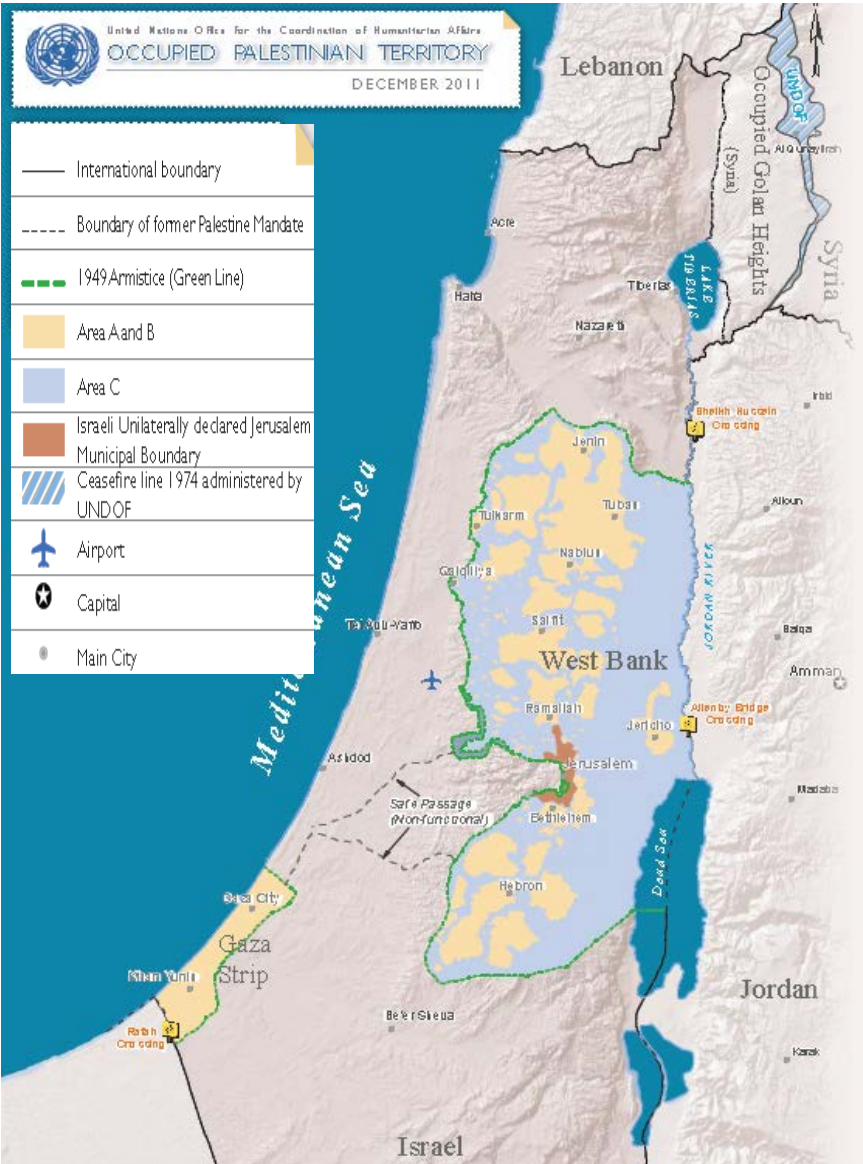
Dutch companies were contacted in order to give them an opportunity to correct inaccurate or outdated information, provide details on their general policy towards doing business with settlement companies and to express their views on the business relations found. Where applicable this information has also been added to the company profiles. However, many of the traders and retailers have chosen not to reply to our questions.

# Chapter 2 The economy of the settlements

## 2.1 Development of the settlements

After the 1948-49 Arab-Israeli war, Israel and its neighbouring countries established a post-war armistice line that marked Israel's borders with Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. It is known as the *Green Line*, the internationally recognized border of the State of Israel. Beyond this border lie the West Bank (including East Jerusalem), the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights, the remaining territories of historic Palestine. These territories have been occupied by Israel since 1967. The West Bank and Gaza Strip are known as the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt), the Golan Heights are part of Syria. Figure 1 shows a map of the location of these territories.

**Figure 1 Map of Israel and occupied territories in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights, 2011**



Source: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs occupied Palestinian territory, December 2011.

Israel has established a large number of settlements in these territories (see Figure 2 for a map of the settlements in the West Bank including East Jerusalem). According to international law, settlements are illegal. *Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention (Part 1)* clearly states: “*The occupying power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies.*”<sup>1</sup>

*UN Resolutions 242 and 338* stipulate that Israel must withdraw completely from these territories. Israel withdrew from the Gaza Strip in September 2005, but continues to build settlements in the other territories, actions deemed illegal by virtually all other states. Neither the Oslo Accords of 1993 nor the Road Map of 2003 led to a land agreement between the parties or a withdrawal by Israel.

**Figure 2 Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank (including East Jerusalem)**



Source: United Nations Human Rights Council, January 2013.

Since 2002, the Israeli government has been building a wall, claiming it would keep Palestinian suicide bombers from striking Israeli citizens. By building the wall and by increasing settlement expansion, Israel retains control over important Palestinian economic areas, agricultural grounds and natural resources like water and land.<sup>2</sup> In 2004, the International Court of Justice ruled the separation wall was in breach of international law, and called on Israel to tear it down and compensate Palestinians harmed by its construction. It stated that it “*severely impeded the exercise by the Palestinian people of its right to self-determination.*”<sup>3</sup>

Moreover, the International Court of Justice found that “*all States should not recognize the illegal situation resulting from the construction of the wall and not give any aid or assistance in maintaining the situation.*”<sup>4</sup>

In the settlements and their neighbouring industrial zones, a large number of Israeli companies operate in various industrial sectors, referred to as ‘*settlement companies*’ in this document. Agricultural production is very important, but industries producing food products, plastic products, cosmetics, and many other goods are also relevant. Other companies benefitting from the occupation and settlements include those involved in the construction and infrastructure set-up or in providing security systems as well as companies exploiting natural resources in the occupied territories.

Despite all these business activities, the overall economic cost-benefit balance of the settlements for the Israeli economy seems to be negative. A precise estimate is difficult to make, as it is difficult to distinguish the costs of the settlements from the costs of the occupation itself. According to a study from 2010, the construction and infrastructure in the settlements have cost Israel US\$ 17 billion, not including security costs or subsidies.<sup>5</sup> Spending has increased significantly in recent years, with settlements on the rise.<sup>6</sup> However, surveys have found that many of those people who move to East Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank are not driven by ideology, religion or politics, but rather lured by government subsidies that significantly lower their cost of living.<sup>7</sup>

## **2.2 Impact on the economic and humanitarian situation of Palestinians**

The *United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)* report from 2011 explicitly links the decline in Palestinian agricultural and industrial sectors with Israeli government policies, in particular the confiscation of land and natural resources, restrictions on movement of people and goods, and isolation from international markets.<sup>8</sup> While Israeli companies operating in settlements stress their role as providing employment to Palestinians, high unemployment rates often give these workers no choice but to work in the settlements. Like slavery or child labour, companies should not profit from cheap and unprotected labour in a settlement.

The *International Fact-Finding Mission on Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory* of the United Nations Human Rights Council states in its recent report that a multitude of the human rights of the Palestinians are violated due to the existence of the settlements.

The mission gathered evidence of violations of human rights on various levels, including restrictions in the right to self-determination and the right of non-discrimination, testimonies of violence and intimidation, dispossession and displacement, restrictions on the right to water, and massive impacts on economic rights. The mission also pointed out that business enterprises in settlements have enabled, facilitated and profited from the construction and growth of these settlements. In addition to the violations of Palestinian workers rights, a number of business activities were identified that raise particular human rights violations concerns. These include, among others, the supply and provision of:



- equipment and materials facilitating the construction and the expansion of settlements and the Wall and associated infrastructures;
- surveillance and identification equipment for settlements, the wall and checkpoints directly linked with settlements as well as security services, equipment and materials to businesses operating in settlements;
- equipment for demolition of housing and property, destruction of agricultural farms, greenhouses, olives groves and crops;
- services and utilities supporting the maintenance and existence of settlements, including transport.

Other reasons for concern named by the mission and NGOs are:

- the exploitation of natural resources, in particular water and land, for business purposes;
- pollution, dumping and transfer of waste to Palestinian villages.<sup>9</sup>

Companies establish factories in the occupied territories mainly in order to enjoy the economic benefits provided by the Israeli government, e.g. tax breaks and low rents in industrial parts like Barkan and Mishor Adumim. In addition, the access to cheap Palestinian workforce and the indirect benefits of operating in industrial zones with low safety and environmental standards attract businesses.<sup>10</sup>

On the other hand, the Palestinian economy is not making headway. The military occupation, restricted movement, faltering aid flows, a paralysed private sector, and a chronic financial crisis are major impediments to a sustainable Palestinian economy. In March 2013, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) stated in a report on the economy in the West Bank and Gaza that “*Israeli restrictions on movement and access are virtually unchanged [since September 2012] and continue to hamper growth*”.<sup>11</sup> A key reason for the fiscal instability is the channelling through Israel of Palestinian trade clearance revenues, which Israel collects on behalf of the Palestinian Authority as stipulated by the Paris Protocol and has repeatedly withheld in the past.<sup>12</sup> There is a lack of new investments in industry while especially income from farming decreased massively. According to the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, upon signature of the Oslo accords in 1993, agriculture represented 28% of GDP, while nowadays contributing only 5.8%.<sup>13</sup>

Restrictions imposed through the occupation of the Palestinian territory constitute a huge restraint for the Palestinian economy. Palestinians are denied from accessing much of their land and from exploiting most of their natural resources; Israel does not allow Palestinians to freely access global markets, and Palestinian territory is partitioned into small, badly connected fragments.<sup>14</sup> The Israeli authorities restrict Palestinians’ access to water by preventing or restricting access to large parts of the West Bank which have been declared “*closed military areas*”, which Palestinians may not enter, because they are close to Israeli settlements, close to roads used by Israeli settlers, used for military training or protected nature reserves. Also the wall is cutting off access to water resources. A lack of sufficient and adequate water supplies is reducing yields and forces Palestinian farmers to switch to less valuable crops. Amnesty International called the restricted access of Palestinians to water “*a means of expulsion*”.<sup>15</sup>

Palestinian farmers face severe difficulties at all stages of manufacturing and exporting. As the export of produce by Palestinian farmers is for the largest part controlled by Israeli companies, prices achieved by farmers are comparatively low. Various government restrictions and security checks cause unpredictable delays, which has severe implications for perishable produce. Fair trade organisations have started to take over a small part of the Palestinian export, offering more financial stability to farmers, however, also they are faced with various hurdles impacting the quality of produce by the time it arrives in the destination countries.<sup>16</sup>

In February 2013, a coalition of Palestinian organisations and unions representing farmers urged "international civil society organisations to build effective campaigns and work towards ending agricultural trade with Israel that finances and rewards the destruction of Palestinian farming".<sup>17</sup> They point out how international trade with agricultural export companies finances the expansion of illegal settlements and rewards them for their participation in violations of international law.

The UN Human Rights Council in its mission report calls on "Member States to comply with their obligations under international law [...] in their relationship to a State breaching [...] international law - specifically not to recognize an unlawful situation."

In relation to private business, the Council recommends that "Private companies must assess the human rights impact of their activities and take all necessary steps – including by terminating their business interests in the settlements – to ensure they are not adversely impacting the human rights of the Palestinian People in conformity with international law as well as the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The Mission calls upon all Member States to take appropriate measures to ensure that business enterprises domiciled in their territory and/or under their jurisdiction, including those owned or controlled by them, that conduct activities in or related to the settlements respect human rights throughout their operations."<sup>18</sup>

### 2.3 Economic relationship with the European Union

Despite clear OECD requirements for the provision of statistical data, the Israeli authorities do not provide disaggregated data on the amount of goods produced and exported to the EU that originate from the Israeli settlements.<sup>19</sup> Based on information obtained from the Israeli authorities, the European Commission estimates that exports from settlements could amount to 0.87% of total Israeli exports to the EU. Based on 2010 total exports from Israel to the EU of approximately € 11.1 billion, settlement exports could reach € 97 million. However, this information should be treated with caution.<sup>20</sup> It seems very low, also when compared to previous estimations.

Already in 2002, it was estimated that if the total settlement exports to Europe were adjusted to also include exports partially produced in occupied territories, they had a value of no less than US\$ 2 billion, or 20 per cent of total Israeli exports to the EU.<sup>21</sup> In 2009, the German news magazine *Der Spiegel* reported that one third of Israeli exports to Europe are made in part or in full in Israeli settlements in the occupied territories.<sup>22</sup>

Estimates towards the higher end of the range seem reasonable when considering that 8.4% of the Israeli population resides in illegal settlements and that the government investment in settlement businesses is estimated at 22% of the total budget for business investment.<sup>23</sup> According to research from 2012, the European Union imports fifteen times more from Israel's illegal settlements in the occupied territories than from actual Palestinian production.<sup>24</sup>

In June 2000, the *EU-Israel Association Agreement* entered into force, regulating bilateral relations between the European Union and Israel. It allows Israel preferential access to the European Union market, exempting imports from duties. Israel's *de facto* application of the *EU-Israel Association Agreement* to occupied territories led to disagreements between Israel and the EU, as settlement products are not eligible for trade benefits such as duty exemptions under EU law.<sup>25</sup>



The Israeli government even has a special subsidy for reimbursing settlement exporters obliged to pay EU import duty. The European Council called already in 2005 on Israel to abolish financial and tax incentives as well as direct and indirect subsidies, and to withdraw exemptions benefiting the settlements and their inhabitants".<sup>26</sup> Despite this call, the tax exemptions are still in place today. According to NGO research, the Israeli government budgeted ILS 10.8 million (€2.2 million) just for this compensation in the state budget 2012.<sup>27</sup>

To avoid distinction between the settlers trade and Israeli trade, the Knesset passed a law in July 2011 which penalizes persons or organizations that boycott Israel or the settlements. According to the law, which was heavily criticised by the opposition in the Israeli parliament and civil society organizations, a person calling for a boycott of settlement produce can be sued without having to prove that damage was caused.<sup>28</sup>

## 2.4 EU policies with relevance to the settlements

### 2.4.1 Human rights

The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, which were developed by Professor John Ruggie, establish a global standard on the roles of businesses and governments in helping to ensure that companies respect human rights in their own operations and through their business relationships. It dismisses profit from illegal practices and stresses companies' obligation to change or cease activities or business relationships with adverse human rights impacts.<sup>29</sup> Within the process of implementing the UN Guiding Principles, the European Commission is developing human rights guidance for specific sectors based on the principles, and invited EU Member States to develop national implementation plans by the end of 2012.<sup>30</sup>

The process to implement the UN Guidelines in the Netherlands in the form of a "*Dutch National Action Plan Human Rights and Business*" (Nederlandse Nationaal Actieplan (NAP) Mensenrechten en Bedrijfsleven) has been started in 2012.<sup>31</sup>

In November 2012, the EU Political and Security Committee (PSC) - a group of EU ambassadors dealing with conflict zones – agreed on a memo criticising repeated cases of settler violence, mainly targeting Palestinian civilians, including children, and their property. While PSC-level approval does not present official EU policy, it suggests that "*individual EU member states could explore possibilities of denying access of known violent settlers to the EU.*"<sup>32</sup>

### 2.4.2 Labelling of settlement products in the European Union

A technical agreement came into force in February 2005, regulating that Israeli goods exported to the EU have to be marked with their place of origin, enabling the customs authorities of the EU member states to distinguish Israeli products from settlement products.<sup>33</sup> However, whether the technical agreement is having an effect is unknown.

But still today, as many companies operating in settlements are sourcing and processing raw materials in both Israel and the occupied territories, Israeli authorities get around the regulation by coding settlement products under the firms' corporate headquarters in Israel proper or by bundling them together with Israel-proper-origin goods.<sup>34</sup> This was confirmed by the recent fact finding mission of the *Human Rights Council of the United Nations*.<sup>35</sup>

In a ground-breaking decision from February 2010, the *European Court of Justice* confirmed a ruling by a German court, stating that the Palestinian territory forms a 'third' party, so that goods produced in Israeli-occupied settlements could only be imported into the EU free of customs duty if the required certificates of origin are issued by the Palestinian authorities under the EU's agreement with the *Palestine Liberation Organisation* (PLO) of 1997. The German customs authorities had asked the German company Brita to pay import duties on water-carbonating machines originating from the SodaStream facility (see paragraph 5.5.1) which is established in Israeli settlement in the West Bank. The company had referred to documents from the Israeli customs authority confirming that their products were made in Israel.<sup>36</sup>

While cases are difficult to prove by the EU customs authorities when checking the origin of products against postcode lists, European retailers have the obligation not to mislead consumers, as correct labelling of products is not only required under the bilateral Association Agreement, but is laid down in EU consumer law through Council Regulation 1234/2007 for a variety of produce in order to avoid consumers being misled. This includes, among others, most fresh fruit and vegetables, wine and honey.<sup>37</sup> In addition, EU Directive 2000/13 lays down that labelling must not mislead consumers as to the origin of foodstuffs, and "*indication of the following particulars [...] shall be compulsory on the labelling of foodstuffs: [...] particulars of the place of origin or provenance where failure to give such particulars might mislead the consumer to a material degree as to the true origin or provenance of the foodstuff.*"<sup>38</sup>

In May 2012, EU foreign ministers reaffirmed "*their commitment to fully and effectively implement existing EU legislation and the bilateral arrangements applicable to settlement products.*"<sup>39</sup> The EU is currently discussing guidelines for labelling of products from settlements in order to enable consumers to take an informed decision.<sup>40</sup> Several EU Member States under guidance of Denmark are lobbying for an EU-level code of conduct, however, such a code would not be legally binding for EU-countries.<sup>41</sup> In the meantime, the UK and Denmark have already introduced voluntary labelling rules and the Netherlands are in the process of introducing specific labelling rules (see paragraph 3.4).

At the same time the required information for origin labelling is readily available, as EU food law makes traceability compulsory for all food businesses, requiring food operators to implement special traceability systems that enable them to identify where products have come from and where they are going.<sup>42</sup>

## Chapter 3 Relationships between Israel and the Netherlands

### 3.1 Diplomatic relationships

Traditionally, Israel and the Netherlands have strong bilateral relations. The two countries meet regularly at state level and cooperate through civil society organisations or individuals at the economic, social and cultural level. An important part of the Dutch presence in Israel focuses on peaceful coexistence of Jewish and Arab Israelis.<sup>43</sup> The Dutch government aims for a solution of the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians by a political agreement over safe, recognized borders for Israel, and an independent Palestinian State.

In 2011, the Dutch government specifically named the tightening of the relations with Israel as one of its priorities in foreign policy.<sup>44</sup> The Israeli President Netanyahu visited the Netherlands in early 2012. The Dutch Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Affairs at the time Verhagen and Foreign Minister Uri Rosenthal visited Israel in mid-2012. They spoke, among other things, about upgrading the relations between Israel and the Netherlands through the establishment of a Israeli-Dutch Council and about the peace negotiations in the Middle East, foreign policy, trade, investment and technological development.<sup>45</sup> During a previous visit in February 2011, Rosenthal met with president Mahmoud Abbas, Prime Minister Salam Fayyad and minister of Foreign Affairs Riyad al-Maliki in Ramallah. Rosenthal made clear that the Netherlands executes a balanced policy in relation to Israel and Palestine.<sup>46</sup> Another visit by Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte is planned in 2013.<sup>47</sup>

The new Dutch Minister for Foreign Affairs, Frans Timmermans, informed the Parliament in December 2012 that he is initially working to achieve a Europe-wide labelling policy for products from settlements. At the same time he is discussing the possibilities for a Dutch labelling initiative with his colleague from the Ministry for Economic Affairs, who is responsible for consumer affairs (see section 2.4.2). Timmermans also announced that the settlement policies of Israel will be of concern in discussions with the Israeli government after the elections in January 2013.<sup>48</sup>

### 3.2 Trade and economic agreements

The Netherlands have close economic relations with Israel. Dutch companies export, for example, electronic appliances, cars and trucks. Imports from Israel consist mainly of medical drugs, chemicals, fruit and vegetables. Israeli companies invest heavily in the Netherlands, for example in the transport and fuel sector.

During his visit in 2012, the then Minister of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation, Verhagen, travelled with 60 entrepreneurs. The aim of the mission was to promote investment and trade with companies and research institutions in the agricultural sector and in the field of (sustainable) energy, technology, logistics and water.<sup>49</sup>

Since 1950 Israel and the Netherlands have signed 14 bilateral agreements, most of them with relevance for trade and economic relations.<sup>50</sup>

### 3.3 Position on the settlements

The discussion about the relationship between the Netherlands and Israel and the settlements has been on-going within the Dutch parliament in the past years. The current government tries to strengthen relations with Israel in terms of economy, research, innovation and education. The Netherlands is, however, of the opinion that Israel has to change its settlement politics.<sup>51</sup> In a reply to a parliamentary question in December 2012, the current Minister of Foreign Affairs, Frans Timmermans, confirmed that the Dutch cabinet sees the Israeli settlements as illegal and a threat to peace, and their extension as the biggest threat to a two-states solution. The Dutch ambassador has informed the Israeli government about the risk that the execution of the decision to further extend the settlements in occupied areas could lead to a decrease of support for Israel in international forums.<sup>52</sup>

In November 2009, the then Dutch minister of Foreign Affairs, Maxime Verhagen, agreed to execute checks at customs concerning cosmetic products coming from Israel. Reason for this was questions asked by Van Bommel, a Dutch parliamentarian, who was concerned about the misleading labelling of Ahava products of Dead Sea Laboratories (see paragraph 5.6.1).<sup>53</sup>

However, it has to be assumed that neither the checks performed by the Dutch customs authorities nor by the Dutch food authority (NVWA) are sufficient in order to prevent the import of products that mislead Dutch consumers through mislabelling and indeed originate from settlements. While there is broad evidence that this is repeatedly happening, especially in the case of agricultural produce, it was being assumed by minister Rosenthal of Foreign Affairs that there is no widespread evasion of the labelling rules of origin.<sup>54</sup> At the same time the planned budget cuts for executing authorities like the NVWA are expected to further hamper the execution of the obligated inspections tasks of the authority.<sup>55</sup> The NVWA as a controlling organization is currently following up on indications of false origin labelling, but does not execute systematic checks.<sup>56</sup>

### 3.4 Labelling of settlement products

Due to the uncertainty about the rules that apply to the import and labelling of products from settlements, Dutch businesses asked the government for clarification. The Dutch retailers organisation, *Centraal Bureau Levensmiddelenhandel (CBL)*, had sent a letter to Minister Kamp (Economic Affairs) in January 2013 on behalf of its members, requesting clarity on the matter in the short-term. It specifically asked to clarify the legal status of products imported from occupied territories and, in case these are not illegal, how these products should be labelled. Copies of the letter were sent to Ministers Timmermans (Foreign Affairs) and Ploumen (Foreign Trade and Development).<sup>57</sup>

After consultation with the European Commission, the Dutch Foreign Ministry published in March 2013 a proposal on clear labelling of settlement products as such instead of originating from Israel. Retailers are advised to replace “*Made in Israel*” labels with a label saying “*Product from Israeli settlement (West Bank/Golan Height /East Jerusalem)*”.<sup>58</sup> This applies to products that require a label under existing EU consumer law, such as fresh vegetables, fruit, wine, honey, olive oil, and cosmetics products. During a discussion in the Dutch Parliament on 12 March 2013, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Frans Timmermans, defended the plans as a means to provide Dutch consumers their right to know and avoid misleading information, as laid down in European consumer law (see paragraph 2.4.2).<sup>59</sup> This advice is in line with the May 2012 statement of EU foreign ministers to fully implement EU legislation regarding products from settlements. However, at the time of finalizing this report, no official decision has been taken yet.

### 3.5 Trade volumes and value

No reliable statistics exist on trade between the Netherlands and settlement companies. As trade with settlements is included in the statistics of the trade between Israel and the Netherlands, these official trade statistics are used in the following in order to get an indication of which products might be exported by settlement companies to the Netherlands.

**Figure 3 Import of Dutch produce to Israel, export of Israeli products to the Netherlands (in US\$ million)**

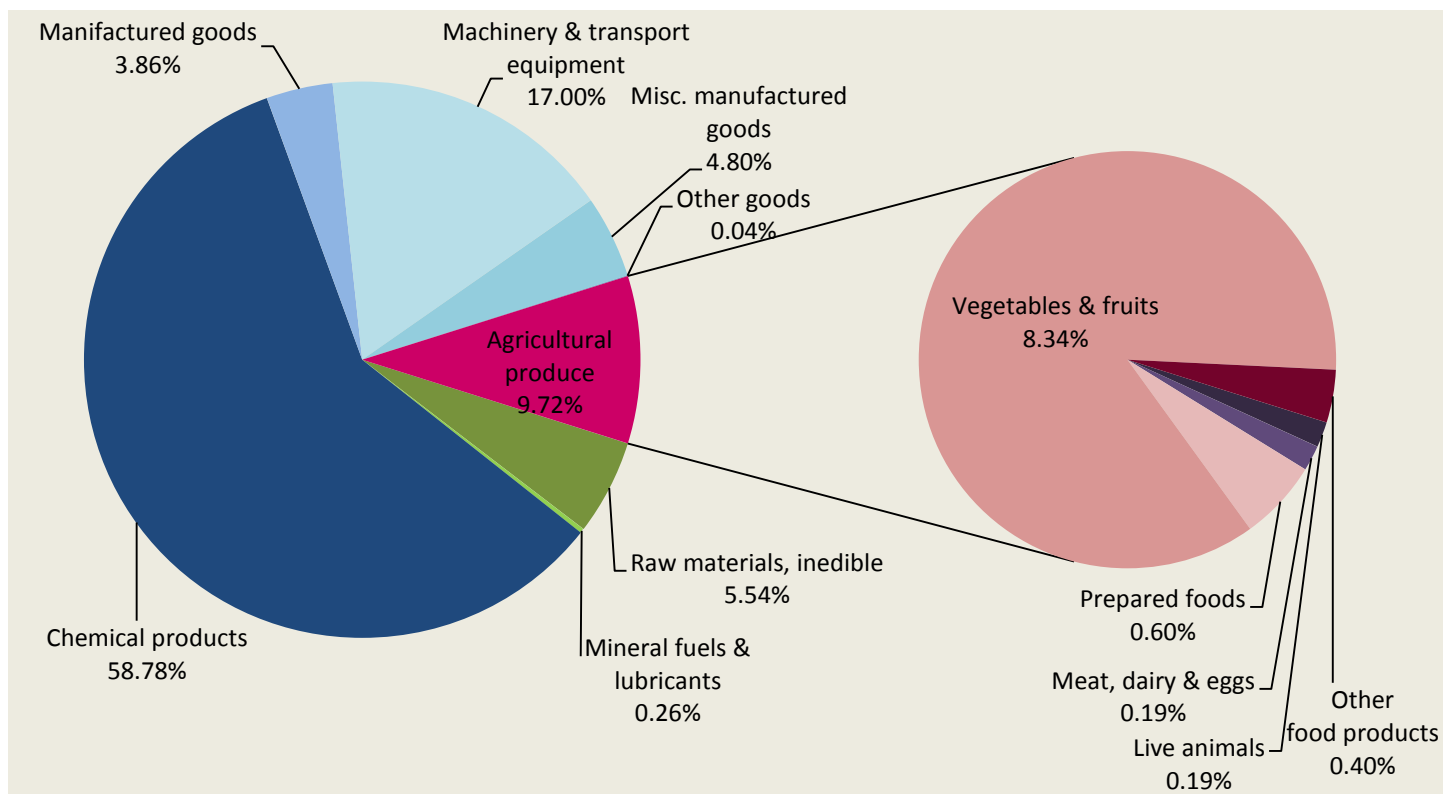


Source: Central Bureau of Statistics Israel, "Foreign Trade", Website Central Bureau of Statistics Israel ([www1.cbs.gov.il](http://www1.cbs.gov.il)), viewed in February 2013.

The Netherlands is Israel's third largest export market within the European Union; the annual exports valued at US\$ 2.3 billion in 2012 accounted for 13% of the country's exports to the EU-27 and 3.6% of total exports (see Figure 3).<sup>60</sup> As no distinction is made in these statistics between Israeli products and settlement products, the import figures from Israel include settlement products. Imports of Dutch products into Israel are slightly higher and reached US\$ 2.7 billion in 2012. In 2012, the Netherlands accounted for 3.7% of Israel's total imports.<sup>61</sup>

The most important exports from Israel to the Netherlands (Figure 4) consist of chemicals and chemical products, including pharmaceuticals, accounting for 59% of total export value in 2011. Machinery and transport equipment accounted for 17% of the total export value. Agricultural exports, including field crops, vegetables, fruits and export of food products, accounted together for almost 10%. Within this category, vegetables and fruit are the most important products, accounting for 8% of the total value of exports to the Netherlands.<sup>62</sup>

**Figure 4 Key Israeli products exported to the Netherlands, by value (2011)**



Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (CBS), "Statline", *Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek*, February 2013.

## Chapter 4 Recent developments in business and investment relationships

### 4.1 Overview

Since the publication of previous Profundo research reports in 2006 and 2010, which identified Dutch economic links supporting the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Syrian territories, there have been some important developments in business and investment relationships.<sup>63</sup>

Riwal, a Dutch company renting out aerial work platforms is under investigation by the Dutch public prosecutor for its involvement in the building of the separation wall. At the same time, some important Dutch companies have taken steps to cut ties with settlement produce.

Noteworthy are the recent decision by Unilever to move its settlement subsidiary and the statements by several Dutch retailers to take steps to remove settlement products. The debate is not only active in the Netherlands, but in many countries around the world. Examples are the moves of Mul-T-Lock and several important pension funds to divest from settlement companies in addition to the South African labelling requirements for produce from settlements and the ANC's adoption of a ban on settlement produce at the end of 2012. In 2006, Dutch ASN Bank was the first financial institution to withdraw investments from Veolia, which implements a lightrail connecting the settlements with East Jerusalem.

These decisions show that there is increasing awareness of the problematic while acceptance of doing business with the Israeli settlements and companies which profit from the occupation is declining. A brief overview of important developments is given in the following paragraphs.

### 4.2 Company developments

#### 4.2.1 Dutch retailers

Dutch retailer Hema is selling wines from the Israeli winery Teperberg 1870 in its shops. United Civilians for Peace requested Hema to provide a guarantee that the wine sold by Hema is neither produced from grapes originating from Israeli settlements in the West Bank nor profits in any way from the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory. In its response from December 2012, Hema clarified that its supplier Teperberg had provided a confirmation that the wines originate completely from actual Israeli locations. Hema stated that it asked for this guarantee in its aim to satisfy customer wishes.<sup>64</sup>

The Dutch subsidiary of German retailer Aldi informed Profundo that it does not want to sell products from Israeli settlements in occupied territories and also has informed its suppliers about this policy. Some of its suppliers are working directly with farmers. Others ask the exporter to sign a supplier's statement stating that no goods from settlements are supplied. The quality controllers of the Dutch suppliers then control the Global GAP numbers, which allow to identify the grower and the exact origin of the product.<sup>65</sup>

Also retailer Hoogvliet has asked its suppliers to not deliver products from Israeli settlements.<sup>66</sup>

Blokker Holding is selling various Keter plastic products (see paragraph 5.7.1), both in Blokker and Leen Bakker shops as well as in its webshop. The supplier of the products has confirmed to Blokker that they are produced in Israel, among others in Keter facilities in Carmiel, Alon Tavor en Yokneam. Should it turn out that, in contrary to the supplier's statement, these products are produced in a settlement, Blokker will stop the purchase of the articles.



Due to economic reasons, Blokker had already ceased to sell SodaStream products in the past.<sup>67</sup>

#### 4.2.2 Mul-T-Lock / Assa Abloy

Mul-T-Lock Ltd. is an internationally operating Israeli producer of high-security cylinders, locks and padlocks for institutional, commercial, industrial and residential applications.<sup>68</sup> The company was acquired by Swedish company Assa Abloy in 2000.

The company's main factory was located in the Barkan Industrial Zone in the occupied West Bank. Following a report by Swedish organisations, Assa Abloy announced in October 2008 that it will move the Mul-T-Lock plant out of the settlements. "*Assa Abloy can only in this context regret that the inappropriateness has not been noted internally, during the eight years of ownership, of having a production unit on the West Bank,*" the company said in a statement.<sup>69</sup>

The company announced its intention to rebuild the plant in another location in Israel in 2009. In January 2012, Assa Abloy confirmed to the Israeli NGO Coalition of Women for Peace that all activities in Barkan have been ceased as of December 2011.<sup>70</sup>

#### 4.2.3 Unilever

The Anglo-Dutch company Unilever, one of the largest food, personal care and detergents producers in the world, has been active in Israel since 1995 through various acquisitions. Nowadays, Unilever Israel, a full subsidiary of Unilever, is the country's fifth largest food manufacturer.<sup>71</sup>

Through the takeover of Best Foods in 2001, Unilever acquired a 51% stake in Beigel & Beigel Food Ltd, a large producer of savoury biscuits and crackers located in the Barkan Industrial Park in the occupied West Bank. The other 49% remained in the hands of the Israeli Beigel family.<sup>72</sup> Unilever was repeatedly criticised for its activities in the settlement, being the largest Dutch company with a direct investment in an Israeli settlement. In November 2008, the company announced that it aimed to sell its stake in the Beigel & Beigel factory, based on strategic reasons and not on political motives.<sup>73</sup> However, in contrary to that announcement it became the sole owner in 2010 by buying the shares of the Beigel family.

In February 2013, Unilever announced the move of the snack production from Barkan to Safed, within Israeli borders. While the company gave economic savings as a reason for the move, the mayor of the Barkan settlement stated that the move had clear political reasons.<sup>74</sup>

#### 4.2.4 Riwal Group

The Dutch Riwal Group, set up by the Dutch Schalekamp family in 1968, is the largest private rental company in Europe in the field of vertical transport. The company rents aerial work platforms and mobile cranes to builders, installation companies, maintenance companies and government institutions.<sup>75</sup> After all family members have left the business by beginning of 2013, all shares have been taken over by Doron Livnat's ProDelta Investments, making his business the wholly owner of Riwal.<sup>76</sup>

In 2006, Riwal started the business of mobile crane rentals in Israel.<sup>77</sup> Lima Holding, the parent company of Riwal Israel, was in turn held with equal shares by ProDelta Investments and D. Schalekamp Holding, and thus in practice a branch of Riwal.<sup>78</sup>



In July 2006, it became public that Riwal rented out mobile cranes to a large client in Israel using the cranes to build the separation wall. Riwal machines were spotted in different places in 2006 and 2007 constructing the wall around the West Bank.<sup>79</sup> Already in 2004, the International Court of Justice in The Hague had ruled that the construction of the Israeli separation wall in the occupied West Bank is in breach of international law.

In contrary to evidence provided by United Civilians for Peace and other NGOs, Riwal repeatedly claimed incorrectly that the company was not supplying machines or personnel to the construction of the barrier.<sup>80</sup> In July 2007, the then Dutch foreign minister, Maxime Verhagen, warned the rental company to terminate its involvement in work on the separation wall in the West Bank.<sup>81</sup> However, in September 2009, cranes of Riwal Israel were seen in construction works on a new industrial park in the settlement Ariel in the West Bank.<sup>82</sup>

In December 2009, Riwal stated that it had ceased all business activities in Israel as the activities performed by Riwal Israel were transferred to Israeli company Rom Israel.<sup>83</sup> However, this has been questioned due to the close relationships between the new company and Riwal, with the director of Riwal Israel becoming the director of Rom, the address remaining the same and all shares in the hands of Adi Livnat, the brother of Doron Livnat, the owner of the Dutch Riwal Group.<sup>84</sup>

In March 2010, a Dutch lawyer requested on behalf of Palestinian NGO Al Haq that the Dutch public prosecutor undertakes investigations into allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity by Riwal. As a result, Riwal's Dutch headquarter was searched by Dutch authorities in October 2010. Police findings have been passed on to the Dutch State Prosecution, but a decision if prosecution will start is as yet outstanding.<sup>85</sup>

### 4.3 Divestments by financial institutions

Various large investors have decided to divest from companies profiting from the occupation in recent years. Prominent examples include the Norwegian Government Pension Fund - Global, the world's largest pension fund, excluding construction company Shikun & Binui in 2012 due to its involvement in the construction of illegal settlements. It had previously excluded Israeli arms producer Elbit Systems (see section 8.1) in 2009 due to its involvement in the construction of the separation wall, and in 2010 construction companies Africa Israel Investments and Danya Cebus due to building illegal settlements.<sup>86</sup>

The Ethical Council of four of Sweden's largest pension funds excluded Elbit Systems in March 2010 over ethical concerns due to the company's involvement in the set-up of the separation wall.<sup>87</sup>

In December 2012, the New Zealand Government Superannuation Fund announced divesting from Elbit Systems, Africa Israel and its construction subsidiary Danya Cebus, and Shikun & Binui due to their engagement in the construction of illegal settlements or the separation fence.<sup>88</sup>

MSCI, a US investment firm, removed Caterpillar from three of its popular indexes that track socially responsible investments in June 2012, over concerns about the Israeli military's use of the company's bulldozers in the Palestinian territories.<sup>89</sup>

### 4.4 Labelling requirements in South Africa

The South African Minister of Trade and Industry announced in May 2012 that he intends to issue a notice requiring traders in South Africa not to incorrectly label products that originate

from occupied Palestinian territories as products of Israel. The decree was approved in August 2012.<sup>90</sup>

Under pressure from civil society organisations, Karsten Farms, a leading South African agricultural company backed by the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), a national development finance institution, announced in January 2013 that it had cut its ties with Israeli agricultural cooperative Hadiklaim (see paragraph 5.2.5), and that it will not enter into any trade relation with any Israeli company and/or entity within the illegal settlement areas of Israel.<sup>91</sup>

## Chapter 5 Settlement companies exporting to the Netherlands

### 5.1 Difficulties in identifying settlement products

In the following paragraphs, findings on settlement companies exporting to the Netherlands are provided. These findings include companies that have headquarters and production based in settlements, as well as companies that are headquartered in Israel but source (part of) their production from settlements. In those cases it can be difficult to quantify what share of the companies' products actually originates from settlements or to evaluate whether products exported to the Dutch market have actually been produced in settlements.

The company profiles also include information on Dutch retailers offering products from these Israeli companies with links to settlements. This information is gathered by desk research of company reports and publications in the industry press, complemented by a selection of visits to branches of large Dutch retail chains (see Appendix 1 ).

As several Israeli fruit and vegetable suppliers state that their produce is also packaged in clients' brand names, it can be assumed that fruit and vegetables from these suppliers could not always be identified as such during supermarket visits. Also, there are more agricultural settlement companies than the ones mentioned in more detail below.<sup>92</sup> However, not for all these companies direct links to the Netherlands could be identified from public sources or during store visits.

More research and full cooperation of traders and retailers would be needed to identify the exact origin of produce, information which retailers ought to have available under Dutch law. The Dutch Food Authority (NVWA) could play a key role here in more systematically controlling whether the consumer laws are respected.

Agricultural produce is playing a key role in the settlement economy. Settlement companies benefit from access to government subsidies, confiscated cheap land and cheap labour. Leading agricultural exporters supplying produce from settlements in the West Bank and especially in the fertile Jordan Valley to the international market are either operating farms in these areas (Mehadrin), sourcing from settlement farmers (AdaFresh, Agrexco, Edom Fruits) or are owned by farmers (Arava Export Growers, Hadiklaim). Some are operating packing houses in illegal settlements to manage the export of produce grown from there. It is being estimated that:

- about 70% of the grapes produced by Israeli settlements in the occupied Jordan Valley are exported, an estimated 50% of all Israeli grape exports;
- 40% of the dates grown in Israel in 2011 were exported. 40% of the exported dates are grown in settlements in the Jordan Valley;
- herbs for export are mainly grown in the Jordan Valley. 80% of Israel's herbs are exported to Europe, including the Netherlands;
- most of the pomegranates exported to Europe are grown in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem, in addition to 22% of the almonds, 13% of the olives, 5% of the nectarines and 3% of the peaches;
- peppers produced in the occupied Jordan Valley are mostly exported to the Netherlands, from where they are also re-exported to other European countries;
- other important produce from the Jordan Valley include, for example, cherry tomatoes, melons, cucumbers, sweet potatoes and flowers.<sup>93</sup>

Cut flowers are also a settlement product exported to the Netherlands on a large scale with the majority being auctioned and re-exported, often in mixed country assignments that do not require origin labelling.<sup>94</sup>

Under the current labelling regime, where fruit and vegetables are marked as originating from Israel even though they are sourced from settlements, it is almost impossible to identify settlement produce in Dutch supermarkets. Sometimes the packaging does allow to identify the exporting or importing company, and thus draw conclusions with regard to settlement companies. However, in most Dutch supermarkets fruit and vegetables are presented in neutral boxes or as private label products, where the origin from Israel does then not allow to make a link to the exporter or trader and to draw conclusions on whether the products stem from Israel or from settlement production. For example, a lot of Jaffa-labelled products from Israel are sold in Dutch supermarkets. While Mehadrin (see paragraph 5.2.6) is known to be an important supplier of Jaffa citrus originating from the settlements, no direct link can be made between the Jaffa fruits in Dutch supermarkets and the settlements. This is because citrus fruits grown in Israel itself are also sold under the Jaffa brand.

Palestinian produce is also exported by Israeli export companies, but not necessarily identifiable as such as it is often labelled as Israeli produce. This includes, for example, flowers and strawberries produced by Palestinian farmers. According to estimations, 75% of the strawberries exported from Israel are actually Palestinian produce. While it is desirable for Palestinian farmers to be able to access foreign markets, they are forced to export through Israeli agricultural traders and face severe challenges in actually sending their produce due to government restrictions and frequent closures of commercial crossings, which is again connected to economic disadvantages.<sup>95</sup>

Settlement products exported to the Netherlands include also processed food products, wine and cosmetics, even though on a smaller scale than fruit, vegetables and flowers. Packaged products can be more easily connected to settlement companies though as production can be more easily linked to a specific location. Such settlement products are described in the following sections. Other settlement products covered in the following sections include plastic, metal and chemical products.

## 5.2 Fruit, vegetables and flowers

### 5.2.1 AdaFresh

AdaFresh  
Farm 37  
Kfar Truman 73150  
Tel: +972-3-973 50 01  
Website: [www.adafresh.co.il](http://www.adafresh.co.il)

AdaFresh is a private company exporting (organic) agricultural products from Israel as well as settlements in the occupied Jordan Valley, including the growers Eitan and Inon Herbs located in the settlement Na'ama and herbs marketed under the name Aroma Na'ama.<sup>96</sup>

#### *Business links to the Netherlands:*

- AdaFresh has a subsidiary in the Netherlands, AdaFresh B.V. (see paragraph 6.1.1) with a logistics centre to serve European countries with its produce.<sup>97</sup>
- In 2012, AdaFresh joined forces with Dutch trader Haluco (see paragraph 7.1.10) to import to Europe. The new company, Haluco Israel, is focussing on pepper imports and is supplied by the same growers as AdaFresh.<sup>98</sup>
- Another Dutch importing partner for AdaFresh peppers in recent years is Anaco & Greeve (paragraph 7.1.3).<sup>99</sup>

#### *Results of shop visits:*

- No AdaFresh-labelled products were found.

## 5.2.2 Agrexco Carmel / Bickel

Agrexco Carmel  
12 Homa Street  
Rishon-le Zion 75655  
Israel  
Tel.: +972-3-563 09 99  
Fax.: +972-3-563 09 88  
E-mail: head-office@agrexco.com  
Website: www.agrexco.co.il

Agrexco Agricultural Export Co. Ltd. (“Agrexco”) provides agricultural products internationally. It offers cut flowers, plants and propagation materials, pot plants, flower bulbs, citrus fruits, fresh herbs, vegetables, fruits, flowers, fish, meat, and general products. Agrexco was founded in 1956 and is based in Tel-Aviv, Israel. The company, long known as Israel’s largest exporter of fresh agricultural produce, has branches in the Netherlands, the UK and France. After its bankruptcy in 2011, Agrexco was taken over by Israeli flower growers Gideon Bickel (Bickel Flowers) and Chen Lamdan (Orian SM) in October 2011.<sup>100</sup> It still has a 60% market share in agricultural produce in Israel and now markets its products under the name Carmel Agrexco.<sup>101</sup>

Today, the Carmel label is applied to 350,000 tons of fresh produce and flowers exported around the world and yielding an annual turnover of US\$ 580 million (€ 425 million).<sup>102</sup> Agrexco also exports under other labels. Organic produce is labelled as Carmel Ecofresh. The Coral brand was created exclusively for Palestinian agricultural products exported and marketed by Agrexco, among them strawberries, tomatoes and flowers. Under the Alesia brand, products from the Southern hemisphere are marketed.<sup>103</sup>

Before the takeover, Agrexco sourced large amounts of produce from growers in Israel, from Israeli settlements in occupied territories, and from Palestinian agricultural companies.<sup>104</sup> Until 2011, Agrexco confirmed on its website that its dates originated from a wide area that includes the West Bank. They also stated that its pomegranates originated from Mitzpe Shalem, an Israeli settlement on the West Bank, while figs originated from Masuah, another Israeli settlement on the West Bank.<sup>105</sup>

According to Israeli NGO information, Agrexco has since its reestablishment regained contracts with a large percentage of the growers that used to work with the company before, including leading flower, potato, avocado, citrus and pomegranate growers.<sup>106</sup> It can thus be assumed that also the new Agrexco is sourcing from settlements.

### *Business links to the Netherlands:*

- Agrexco has a branch office in the Netherlands, which is responsible for the administrative handling of Agrexco’s fruit and vegetable exports to Central and Eastern Europe (see paragraph 6.1.2).<sup>107</sup>

### *Results of shop visits:*

- Carmel Agrexco citrus fruits were spotted in Jumbo (see paragraph 7.1.14) branches in Amsterdam and Utrecht.

### 5.2.3 Arava Export Growers

Arava Export Growers  
P.O. Box 238  
Bnei Atarot 60991  
Israel  
Tel: +972-3-973 41 41  
Fax: +972-3-973 41 14  
E-mail: marketing@arv.co.il  
Website: www.arv.co.il

Arava Export Growers is a major exporter of fresh Israeli produce worldwide, including fruit, vegetables and fresh herbs. Arava is the biggest exporter of peppers from Israel.<sup>108</sup> The company was established in 1991 following the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture's decision to permit growers in the Arava region, located in the southern region of Israel, to set their own private and independent export company. In 2000, a major holding company, Hamashbir Holdings, which in turn is 50% owned by B. Gaon Holdings, acquired a 50% share of Arava Export Growers Ltd.<sup>109</sup> The other 50% is held by farmers in the Arava region of Israel and by Jordan River Herbs.<sup>110</sup>

Marketing overseas takes place through subsidiaries in the United States and the Netherlands - Arava U.S.A. and Arava Holland B.V respectively – as well as through a sales office in the UK.<sup>111</sup>

Information accessed on the Arava company website in April 2011 showed Arava's tomato growing regions including the Jordan Valley, north of the Dead Sea, which is part of the West Bank.<sup>112</sup> This level of detail on production sites is no longer available on the company website. According to NGO reports also peppers, grapes, and organic products are sourced from the Jordan Valley.<sup>113</sup> This is confirmed by a list of producers assigned to a Global G.A.P. certification for Arava Export Growers, which was valid from at least April 2011 until May 2012. It lists various growers in the occupied West Bank, among them grape producers in Tomer and Fatzael and herb growers in Argaman.<sup>114</sup> In addition, Arava is apparently supplied by Jordan River Herbs, a company owned by farmers from the settlement of Mechola in the occupied Jordan Valley.<sup>115</sup>

#### *Business links to the Netherlands:*

- Arava Export Growers' Dutch subsidiary, Arava Holland B.V. (see paragraph 6.1.3) is located in Bleiswijk and combines office facilities with cold storage and a temperature controlled repacking hall. Arava Holland serves the EU market.<sup>116</sup>
- The largest part of Arava Holland's sales is imported from its parent company in Israel, but the imports from other countries are increasing. As indicated above, imported products for the Dutch market could be grown by Arava's suppliers in the occupied Jordan Valley. However, no confirmation for this could be found, except of an article on the herb imports by Arava Holland published in 2010 making a reference to Jordan River Herbs.<sup>117</sup>
- Arava is a supplier of Dutch fruit importer Aartsenfruit (see paragraph 7.1.1) and Dutch fruit importer Valstar (see paragraph 7.1.31).<sup>118</sup>

#### *Results of shop visits:*

- No Arava- or Jordan River-labelled products were found.

#### 5.2.4 Edom Fruits

Kibbutz Afikim 15148  
P.O. Box 104  
Israel  
Tel: +972-4-675 49 08  
Fax: +972-4-675 48 69  
Email: yinono@edom-fruits.co.il  
Website: www.edom.co.il

Edom Fruits, a sister company of Edom UK, is focusing on the production and export of exotic fruit, including pomegranates, mango, avocado, dates and citrus fruits.<sup>119</sup> 20% of company shares are held by the British Glinwell company, another 20% are held by the British Valley Grown Salads, 30% by farmers from the Arava region through Chosen Agricultural Products, and 30% by Magnolia U.K. Holdings.<sup>120</sup>

Edom UK owns at least one packing house for tomatoes and peppers in the agricultural area of the settlement of Tomer in the occupied West Bank, with most of the produce being destined for Europe. In 2010, products and boxes labeled as originating from Israel were spotted in the Ecom packing house.<sup>121</sup>

##### *Business links to the Netherlands:*

- Edom Fruits is listed as a supplier of dates, mangos and pomegranate by Nature's Pride (see paragraph 7.1.20).<sup>122</sup>

##### *Results of shop visits:*

- No Edom-labelled products were found.

#### 5.2.5 Hadiklaim

Hadiklaim  
6 Harutz Street  
Tel Aviv 67060  
Israel  
Tel: +972-3-638 95 55  
Fax: +972-3-688 59 99  
Website: www.hadiklaim.com

Hadiklaim Date Growers' Cooperative consolidates the activities of Israel's largest date producers, including quality control, administration, marketing, sales and export activities. It markets and exports dates under three brand names - Jordan River, Jordan River Bio-Top and King Solomon - but also under the private labels of supermarket chains. Its main packing houses are located in Zemach, Beit Shean and Eilat in Israel.<sup>123</sup>

The company exports dates from Israel as well as from the occupied territories, especially Israeli settlements in the occupied Jordan Valley. Hadiklaim's marketing is handled by Israeli export company Almog Tradex Ltd., with exports to various large supermarket chains in Europe.<sup>124</sup>

##### *Business links to the Netherlands:*

- Hadiklaim dates are likely also sold under private labels of supermarkets.



*Results of shop visits:*

- King Solomon branded Hadiklaim dates were spotted in Hanos (see paragraph 7.1.11) in Groningen.

## 5.2.6 Mehadrin Group

Mehadrin Group  
Power Center 1  
Be'erot Yitzaq 60905  
Israel  
Tel: +972-3-937 13 71  
E-mail: export@mtex.co.il  
Website: www.mtex.co.il

Mehadrin Group is Israel's largest grower and exporter of citrus, fruits and vegetables. It is owned by Property & Building Corp (45.41%) (a subsidiary of IDB Development) and the Israel Phoenix Insurance Co. (41.42%), while the remainder is owned by the public.<sup>125</sup>

The company produces on over 8,500 hectares of agricultural holdings.<sup>126</sup> The vast majority of the orchards is owned by the company or held on a long term lease.<sup>127</sup> The company has annual sales of approximately US\$ 300 million (€ 220 million) with over 70% of the produce exported globally to all continents.<sup>128</sup>

An important subsidiary is Mehadrin Tnuport Export (MTex). In Israel, MTex markets citrus fruit under the Pri-Or brand, supplying 20% of the domestic market. Furthermore, MTex is the leading supplier of Jaffa-labelled citrus, handling over 200,000 tons of citrus and tropical fruit annually.<sup>129</sup>

Mehadrin owns seven packing houses and cold storages across Israel as well as more than 50 orchards. According to information provided on its website, the company operates at least three orchards in the occupied territories.<sup>130</sup>

Since July 2007, MTex has exported Medjoul dates to Europe, which are for a part grown in the occupied Jordan Valley.<sup>131</sup> Jaffa-labelled citrus fruits produced in settlements are also exported to Europe. Grapes and dates were also found to be sourced by Mehadrin from, amongst others, the settlement of Beqa'ot.<sup>132</sup> Recent follow-up research by a NGO confirmed that Mehadrin is still mislabelling the produce exported from Beqa'ot, marking the boxes as 'produce of Israel' instead of the West Bank. Cases of mislabelling were also documented for vegetable exporter STM Ltd, a 50% subsidiary of Mehadrin.<sup>133</sup>

The Mehadrin Group also holds 50% of Miriam Shoham, which owns a packing house for mangos in the Golan Heights. This company claims to market its products in England, France, Germany, the Gulf States, the Netherlands, Russia, Scandinavia, South Africa and Spain. Clients can order fruit packed in their own brand name.<sup>134</sup>

Mehadrin is also heavily involved in providing water to farmers in cooperation with the Israeli State water company Mekorot. The Group operates 19 wells in the coastal and mountain aquifers, which supply millions cubic meter of water to farmers and drinking water for domestic consumption.<sup>135</sup>

Israel controls 80 per cent of the West Bank's water sources, and diverts most of that supply to its own citizens, inside Israel and the settlements. Settlers use many times more water per capita than West Bank Palestinians, who often do not even have access to running water.<sup>136</sup>



*Business links to the Netherlands:*

- Since 1997, Mehadrin Group is present on the Dutch market with its subsidiary MTex Holland (see paragraph 6.1.4). The office in Barendrecht is responsible for the Netherlands, Belgium and the German speaking countries.<sup>137</sup>
- MTex Holland is closely cooperating with Olympic Fruit, a subsidiary of the Olympic Food Group.<sup>138</sup> The companies are located at the same address as MTex in Barendrecht. The fruit trader, among others, is putting Israeli grapes originating from the Jordan Valley on the Dutch market in cooperation with Mehadrin.<sup>139</sup> Olympic Fruit is a supplier of the key supermarket chains in the Netherlands, including Albert Heijn, C1000, Jumbo and Plus.<sup>140</sup> It is not known which products are supplied by Olympic Fruit to these supermarkets.
- Mehadrin also distributes its products via Aartsenfruit (see paragraph 7.1.1).<sup>141</sup>

*Results of shop visits:*

- Mehadrin avocados and sharon fruit were spotted in one C1000 shop (part of Jumbo Group) in Amsterdam (see paragraph 7.1.14);
- Mehadrin Jaffa oranges were spotted in C1000 shops in Amsterdam, Utrecht and Wageningen;
- Mehadrin dates were spotted in Sligro (see paragraph 7.1.25) in Groningen.
- Jaffa grapefruit supplied by Mehadrin were spotted in Hanos (see paragraph 7.1.11) in Groningen.

## 5.3 Other food products

### 5.3.1 Abadi Bakery

Adabi Bakery  
158 Ha-Tozeret Street  
Atarot I.Z.  
P.O. Box 47038  
Jerusalem  
Israel  
Tel: 972-2-585 52 28  
Fax: + 972-2-583 60 26  
E-mail: shelly@abadibakery.co.il  
Website: www.abadibakery.com

Abadi Bakery is a family owned producer of bread rings and crackers. Abadi holds nearly 80% share of the savoury cookie market in Israel.<sup>142</sup> The exact same products are sold under the Shelley Anne brand on the international market.<sup>143</sup> The company is based in the Atarot Industrial Zone in the occupied West Bank.<sup>144</sup>

*Business links to the Netherlands:*

- No information on the Dutch importer could be found.

*Results of shop visits:*

- Shelley Anne's bread rings were spotted in one C1000 branch (part of Jumbo Group) in Amsterdam (see paragraph 7.1.14).

### 5.3.2 Achdut

Achdut  
P.O. Box 79  
Barkan Industrial Zone 44820  
Israel  
Tel. +972-3-906 80 20  
E-mail: achdut-r@bezeqint.net  
Website: www.halva.co.il

Achdut is an Israel-based private company producing and selling sesame (tahini, halva) products as well as sugarless products, syrups, cakes, etc. under the brand Achva. It is a major provider of tahini to the Israeli army.<sup>145</sup> The production of Achva products is located in the industrial zone of Barkan, which is in the occupied West Bank.<sup>146</sup>

#### *Business links with the Netherlands:*

- Achdut products are exported by the Mavua Group, a major Israeli exporter of food and cosmetics products.<sup>147</sup>

#### *Result of shop visits:*

- Achva cakes have been spotted in one C1000 shop (part of Jumbo Group) in Amsterdam (see paragraph 7.1.14).
- Achva products are sold in the Netherlands by the Israël Producten Centrum<sup>148</sup> (see paragraph 7.1.13 )

### 5.3.3 Shamir Salads

Shamir Salads  
31 Shoham Street  
Barkan I.Z.  
Tel: 972-3/906 77 44  
E-mail: export.deckel@shamirsalads.co.il  
Website: www.shamirsalads.com

Shamir Salads is a producer of ready-made salads. Its factory has the ability to produce 700 tons a month. The company has been supplying the Israel Defence Forces for years.<sup>149</sup> The production facility is located in the Barkan Industrial Zone. The company has previously been exposed as deliberately mislabelling its settlement produce.<sup>150</sup>

#### *Business links with the Netherlands:*

- According to the website of Shamir Salads, the company is also present on the Dutch market, however, no further information could be found.<sup>151</sup> In March 2010, Shamir Salads hummus was found in the Netherlands that was falsely labelled as originating from Israel.<sup>152</sup>

#### *Result of shop visits:*

- No Shamir Salads products were spotted.

## 5.4 Wine

### 5.4.1 Golan Heights Winery

Golan Heights Winery  
P.O. Box 183  
12900 Katzrin  
Israel  
Tel: +972-4-696 84 20  
Fax: +972-4-696 22 20  
E-mail: ghwinery@golanwines.co.il  
Website: www.golanwines.co.il

Golan Heights Winery was established in 1983 and is one of the largest wine producers in Israel. Its winery is located in Katzrin, a settlement on the Golan Heights. The vineyards are located in various places on the occupied Golan Heights (Odem, Ortal, El Rom, Aloney Habashan, Gshur, Yonatan, Ein Zivan, Kidmat Tzvi, Ramat Magshimim, Sha'al and Tel Fares).<sup>153</sup>

The company sells its wines under the brand names Yarden, Gamla and Golan. Golan Heights Winery has a market share of 18% on the domestic market and accounts for 38% of Israeli wine exports. About 20% of Golan's wines are exported to 25 countries.<sup>154</sup>

#### *Business links with the Netherlands:*

- No information on the Dutch importer could be found.

#### *Results of shop visits:*

- Yarden and Gamla wines by Golan Heights Winery are sold by wine shop De Wijnstok in Delft (see paragraph 7.1.5).<sup>155</sup>
- Gradatim offers Yarden and Gamla wines in two web-shops (www.le-connoisseur.nl and www.1inwijn.nl) (see paragraph 7.1.9).<sup>156</sup>
- Online wine shop Multiwijn offers Yarden wine (see paragraph 7.1.19).<sup>157</sup>

### 5.4.2 Tishbi Estate Winery

Tishbi Estate Winery  
33 Hameyasdim Street  
Zichron Yaakov 30900  
Israel  
Tel: +972-4-638 04 34/5  
Fax: +972-4-638 02 23  
E-mail: tishbi\_w@netvision.net.il  
Website: www.tishbi.com

Tishbi Estate Winery is a family-owned medium-sized winery in Zichron Yaakov producing wine from biological grapes.<sup>158</sup> One of the company's vineyards is located in Gush Etzion, a block of settlements in the occupied West Bank. Another one is located in Kidmat Tsvi, a settlement on the Golan Heights.<sup>159</sup> Additionally, Tishbi is one of the owners (8%) of Gush Etzion Wineries, which has wineries in the settlement of Efrata.<sup>160</sup> Tishbi also uses grapes from Gush Etzion Wineries in the production of its own wines.<sup>161</sup>

The wines of Tishbi Estate Winery are sold under the Jonathan Tishbi, Tishbi and Tishbi Estate brand names, in various European countries, Canada and South Africa.<sup>162</sup> The company does not provide accurate information as to the origin of the grapes in each of its wines.<sup>163</sup>

*Business links with the Netherlands:*

- The European distribution centre of Tishbi Estate Winery, Karo Kado, is located in the Netherlands (see paragraph 7.1.15).<sup>164</sup>

*Results of shop visits:*

- The official dealers of Tishbi wine in the Netherlands are Floractive (see paragraph 7.1.307.1.30), and
- Il Divino (see paragraph 7.1.12).<sup>165</sup>

## 5.5 Other beverages

### 5.5.1 SodaStream

Main address:

SodaStream International Ltd.  
Gilboa Street  
Airport City 70100,  
Israel  
Tel: +972-3-976 23 01  
Fax: +972-3-973 66 73  
Website: [www.sodastream.com](http://www.sodastream.com)

Production:

Mishor Adumim:  
50 Ha'ugda Street  
P.O. Box 77  
Mishor Adumim I.Z. 98510  
Israel  
Tel: +972-2-590 04 21

SodaStream International (formerly known as Soda-Club Holdings) is engaged in developing, manufacturing and marketing home beverage carbonation systems and related products, such as soda makers, exchangeable carbon-dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) cylinders, and consumables, consisting of CO<sub>2</sub> refills, reusable carbonation bottles and flavours. In 2011, the company realised global revenues of US\$ 289 million (€223 million), resulting in a net profit of US\$ 27 million (€21 million).<sup>166</sup> Its 2010 IPO made the eighth largest Israeli IPO at the Nasdaq of all time.<sup>167</sup>

SodaStream products are exported to 39 countries worldwide, including the Netherlands.<sup>168</sup> Its products are sold under the SodaStream name in most countries, and under the Soda-Club name or selected other names in certain other countries. SodaStream sells its products mainly through large retail stores.<sup>169</sup>

Since July 1996, the main production plant of the company has been located in Mishor Adumim, an Israeli settlement in the occupied West Bank, employing 300 people.<sup>170</sup> It is the location of a metal factory, plastic and bottle blowing factory, machining factory, assembly factory, cylinder manufacturing facility, CO<sub>2</sub> refill line and cylinder retest facility. In another company plant in Ashkelon in Israel, the syrups are produced and distributed worldwide.<sup>171</sup> It can be assumed that the actual Sodastream appliances are produced in the settlement location Mishor Adumim.<sup>172</sup>

Already in 2003, the company had announced plans to relocate some operations to Ashkelon in Israel. This was due to the EU not recognizing exports from beyond the Green Line as Israeli exports and seeking to levy full import taxes on them.<sup>173</sup> Up till now, this relocation has not materialized.

The company makes reference to the business risks associated with the location of its facility in a settlement in its annual report 2011. But it also mentions the tax benefits that it enjoys due to the location of the facility in Mishor Adumim. The lease of the plant in Mishor Adumim terminates in July 2013.<sup>174</sup>

In 2012, the company stated its intention to prolong the contract and the CEO, Daniel Birnbaum, confirmed that he had no intentions to close the facility.<sup>175</sup> Birnbaum was quoted as saying “*closing the plant would do nothing good for the 160 Palestinian families who depend on it for employment*”.<sup>176</sup>

However, the company has been repeatedly criticised in the last years for the poor working conditions of Palestinian workers and the breach of Israeli labour laws.<sup>177</sup> At the same time, Palestinians living in the villages around Mishor Adumim have been prevented from building any permanent structure under Israeli military orders and threats of being evicted.<sup>178</sup>

*Business links with the Netherlands:*

- The Group’s operational activities are managed by its wholly owned subsidiary, SodaStream International B.V., registered in the Netherlands. Also Sodastream’s European commercial and logistics centre is managed from the Netherlands.<sup>179</sup>
- Supermarkets listed as suppliers of syrups include various branches of:
  - C1000 (Jumbo Group) (see paragraph 7.1.14)
  - Gall & Gall (Royal Ahold) (see paragraph 7.1.2)
  - Plus (see paragraph 7.1.23).

*Results of shop visits:*

- SodaStream machines and accessories were spotted in Saturn Amsterdam (see paragraph 7.1.18); various branches of Media Markt and Saturn (see paragraph 7.1.18) are also listed on the Dutch SodaStream website;
- SodaStream syrups were spotted in a Plus branch (see paragraph 7.1.23) in Arnhem.

## 5.6 Cosmetics

### 5.6.1 Ahava Dead Sea Laboratories

Office address:

Ahava Dead Sea Laboratories  
5 Hatsoref Street  
Holon, 58856  
Israel  
Tel: +972-3-557 11 11  
Fax: +972-3-558 14 24  
Website: www.ahava.co.il

Production:

Mitzpe Shalem, Dead Sea, 86983  
Israel  
Tel: +972-2-994 51 17 / +972-2-994 51 23  
Fax: +972-2-994 51 22  
E-mail: gmail@ahava.co.il  
Website: www.ahava.com

Dead Sea Laboratories Ltd. (DSL) was established in 1988. It develops, manufactures, and markets cosmetics and skincare products based on Dead Sea mud and minerals which are sold under the Ahava brand name in more than 30 countries worldwide.<sup>180</sup> Its annual sales total an estimated € 110 million.<sup>181</sup>

Shareholders of Ahava Dead Sea Laboratories are Hamashbir Holdings (Gaon Holdings and the Livnat family) with 50%, the Shamrock Investment Fund (a branch of the Disney Investment Corporation from the United States) with about 17%, and the West Bank settlements of Kibbutz Mitzpe Shalem and Kalia.<sup>182</sup> B. Gaon Holdings Ltd. is one of the largest holding companies in Israel, managed by Benjamin Gaon.<sup>183</sup>

Dead Sea Laboratories has its production plant, a laboratory and a visitor centre in the Mitzpe Shalem settlement in the West Bank.<sup>184</sup> According to NGO research, the economy of the settlement primarily depends on the cosmetics industry, by providing employment for the settlers and attracting tourists.<sup>185</sup>

Ahava is the only company licensed by the Israeli government to mine raw materials in this settlement region. Government authorities confirmed in April 2011 that the site was operational at the time.<sup>186</sup> The company claims though to only use mud from Israeli territory, extracted in Ein Boqeq.<sup>187</sup>

Certain products of Ahava sold in the Netherlands list Israel as originating country, or Dead Sea Israel, with only a German or Dutch importer address in English. However, the Hebrew labelling shows that they are indeed produced in Mitzpe.<sup>188</sup>

*Business links with the Netherlands:*

- The Dutch distributor of Ahava products is Teva Nederland (see paragraph 7.1.29).<sup>189</sup>

*Results of shop visits:*

- Ahava products are sold by or can be ordered through most pharmacies in the Netherlands.<sup>190</sup>
- Ahava products were spotted in Kring Apotheek pharmacies (see paragraph 7.1.17) in Amsterdam, Veenendaal and Wageningen.
- Ahava products are offered in the Cosmetix webshop (see paragraph 7.1.4).<sup>191</sup>
- Ahava products are offered in Farmashoponline.nl (see paragraph 7.1.7);<sup>192</sup>

## 5.7 Plastic products

### 5.7.1 Keter Group

Headquarter:

Keter Group  
2 Sapir Street  
Hertzliya Industrial Zone 46852  
Israel  
Tel: +972-9-959 12 12  
Fax: +972-9-955 49 60  
Website: www.keter.com

Barkan Plant:

11 Hashoham Street  
Barkan 44820  
Israel

Lipski Plant:

5 Ha'Shoham Street  
Barkan 44820  
Israel  
Tel: +972-3-906 68 88  
Fax: +972-3-936 60 80  
E-mail: betivkd@keter.co.il  
Website: www.lipski.co.il

Keter Group is a large, privately-owned Israeli manufacturer of plastic indoor and garden furniture, shelving systems, tool boxes and storage products for the do-it-yourself market. The company was founded in 1948 and is based in Hertzliya, Israel. Keter operates 29 plants in Israel, Europe, and the United States and produces a wide range of products that are sold in over 90 countries worldwide. Annual sales of Keter Group amounted to US\$ 900 million (€ 660 million) in 2011, 95% of which derived from overseas sales. Keter Plastic, which was founded in 1948, is responsible for the Israeli activities of the Keter Group. In Israel, Keter Plastic operates its own chain of retail stores.<sup>193</sup> Keter Plastic is ranked as no. 21 on the list of largest Israeli companies based on sales volume in 2012.<sup>194</sup>

Keter Plastic and its subsidiary Lipski, operate two factories in the Barkan Industrial Park, located in the occupied West Bank.<sup>195</sup> No information about the products of these plants is available in public sources.

#### *Business links with the Netherlands:*

- Keter Plastic has various operations in the Netherlands (see paragraph 6.3.1). While the company sells many products with various brand names on the Dutch market, only Keter-branded products might possibly originate from the Barkan Industry Zone. However, it is unclear which specific products are manufactured there and if these products are sold in the Netherlands.
- Keterim (see paragraph 7.1.16) is an independent, Dutch-owned importer of plastic storage buildings, sheds and storage boxes produced by Keter Plastics.<sup>196</sup>

## 5.7.2 Ram Quality Products (Tip Top Toys Star)

Main address:

Ram Quality Products  
15 Mendes Street  
Ramat Gan 52653  
Israel  
Tel: +972-3-936 41 21  
Website: www.interstar.co.il

Production facility:

Sapir 28,  
Barkan 44820  
Israel  
Tel: +972-3-936 41 21

The family-owned Ram Quality Products (previously Tip Top Toys Star Ltd) is an Israeli producer of educational toys. The company was established in 1991 by Uri Barazani. Its main product line is the plastic Interstar construction system.<sup>197</sup> The factory of Tip Top Toys is located in the Barkan Industrial Zone in the occupied West Bank.<sup>198</sup>

*Business links with the Netherlands:*

- No information on the Dutch importer could be found.

*Results of shop visits:*

Interstar construction toys are sold in the Netherlands by:

- Speelgoed International B.V. in Alkmaar (see paragraph 7.1.26)<sup>199</sup>, and by
- The Israël Producten Centrum in Nijkerk (see paragraph 7.1.13).<sup>200</sup>

## 5.8 Metal products

### 5.8.1 A.R.I. Flow Control Accessories

A.R.I. Flow Control  
Kibbutz Kfar Charuv  
12932 Israel  
Tel: +972-4-676 18 00  
Fax: +972-4-676 34 02  
E-mail: ari@ari.co.il  
Website: www.arivalves.com

A.R.I. Flow Control Accessories Ltd. is a manufacturer of air release and check valves. It was established in 1970 and has 160 employees.

The company has developed a wide range of products for various applications in water supply (municipal and domestic), sewage, industry, agriculture and landscaping. The company's headquarter as well as production are located in the Israeli settlement Kibbutz Kfar Charuv on the occupied Golan Heights.<sup>201</sup>

*Business links with the Netherlands:*

- A.R.I. Flow Control Accessories states to export water supply and sewage products to the Netherlands as well as agricultural products.<sup>202</sup>

*Results of shop visits:*

The following Dutch retailers sell A.R.I. products:



- Revaho (see paragraph 7.1.24),<sup>203</sup>
- Eriks Nederland (see paragraph 7.1.6).<sup>204</sup>

## 5.8.2 Barkan Mounts

Barkan Mounts  
 22 Ha'Sachlav Street  
 P.O. Box 89  
 West industrial zone  
 Ariel, 44820  
 Israel  
 Tel: + 972-3-936 74 04  
 Fax: + 972-3-936 74 05  
 E-mail: sales.eu@barkanmounts.com  
 Website: www.barkanmounts.com

Barkan Mounts produces mounting solutions for LCD televisions, plasma televisions and other consumer electronic products. This used to be done in the Barkan settlement, in occupied territory. In May 2012, Barkan Mounts informed the Israeli Coalition of Women for Peace After that it moved all its production to China. However, the headquarter of the company remained in the Ariel settlement.<sup>205</sup>

### *Business links with the Netherlands:*

- No information on the Dutch importer could be found.

### *Results of shop visits:*

Products of Barkan Mounts were found in two (online) electronics and accessories shops:

- Nedis (see paragraph 7.1.21), and
- Stebis (see paragraph 7.1.27).<sup>206</sup>

## 5.9 Chemical products

### 5.9.1 Bio-Lab

Bio-Lab  
 Atarot Industrial Zone  
 P.O. Box 34038  
 Jerusalem 91340  
 Israel  
 Tel: +972-2-584 11 11  
 Fax: +972-2-584 11 10  
 E-mail: info@biolab-chemicals.com  
 Website: www.biolab-chemicals.com

Bio-Lab Ltd. is a private firm manufacturing hundreds of kinds of chemical solvents and reagents for hospitals, industry and scientific research. The company is located in Atarot Industrial Zone in the occupied West Bank.<sup>207</sup>

### *Business links with the Netherlands:*

- Bio-Lab's Dutch subsidiary Biosolve B.V. (see paragraph 6.4.1 ) markets and distributes its products in Europe.<sup>208</sup>

### *Results of shop visits:*

- Not relevant for this company.

## Chapter 6 Dutch companies owned by settlement companies

The companies described in the following paragraphs are registered in the Netherlands and are subsidiaries of Israeli companies which are profiting in various ways from the occupation. Many of them are linked to Israeli settlement companies exporting produce to the Dutch market, three are providing transport-related services in the Netherlands.

### 6.1 Fruit and vegetables

#### 6.1.1 AdaFresh

AdaFresh B.V.  
Transportweg 23C  
2676 LM Maasdijk  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-1745-134 33  
Fax: +31-1745-113 35  
E-Mail: info-nl@adafresh.com  
Website: www.adafresh.co.il

AdaFresh B.V. is the Dutch subsidiary of Israeli fruit and vegetable trader AdaFresh Ltd. (see paragraph 5.2.1). It has a logistics centre in Maasdijk to serve European countries with its produce.<sup>209</sup>

AdaFresh is a private company exporting (organic) agricultural products from Israel as well as settlements in the occupied Jordan Valley, including the growers Eitan and Inon Herbs located in the settlement Na'ama and herbs marketed under the name Aroma Na'ama.<sup>210</sup>

#### 6.1.2 Agrexco Carmel Agricultural Export Company

Agrexco Carmel Agricultural Export Company Ltd.  
De Brauwweg 62  
3125 AE Schiedam  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-10-298 40 00  
Fax: +31-10-298 40 47  
E-mail: neb@agrexco.com

Agrexco Carmel's (see paragraph 5.2.2) branch office in the Netherlands is responsible for the administrative handling of Agrexco's fruit and vegetable exports to Central and Eastern Europe.<sup>211</sup>

The Carmel label is applied to 350,000 tons of fresh produce and flowers exported around the world and yielding an annual turnover of US\$ 580 million (€ 425 million).<sup>212</sup> Before its takeover in 2011, Agrexco sourced large amounts of produce from growers in Israel, from Israeli settlements in occupied territories, and from Palestinian agricultural companies.<sup>213</sup> According to Israeli NGO information, Agrexco has since its reestablishment regained contracts with a large percentage of the growers that used to work with the company before, including leading flower, potato, avocado, citrus and pomegranate growers.<sup>214</sup> It can thus be assumed that also the new Agrexco is sourcing and exporting from settlements.

### 6.1.3 Arava Holland

Arava Holland B.V.  
Klappolder 92 -96  
2665 LP Bleiswijk  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-10-529 94 75  
E-mail: rogier@arv.co.il

Arava Holland B.V., a subsidiary of Arava Export Growers (see paragraph 5.2.3), is located in Bleiswijk, combining office facilities with cold storage and a temperature controlled repacking hall. Arava Holland serves the EU market.<sup>215</sup>

In 2011, Arava Holland realised an annual turnover of € 16.4 million (€ 5.2 million in the Netherlands) and a profit after tax of € 40,000. The company has no employees, the management of its distribution centre is subcontracted to another, unknown company.<sup>216</sup>

The largest part of Arava Holland's sales is imported from its parent company in Israel, but the imports from other countries are increasing. It is likely that products imported to the Dutch market are also grown by Arava's suppliers in the occupied Jordan Valley. However, no confirmation for this could be found, except for an article on the herb imports by Arava Holland published in 2010 making a reference to herb producer Jordan River.<sup>217</sup>

### 6.1.4 MTex Holland

MTex Holland B.V.  
Handelscentrum ZHZ 40C  
2991 LD Barendrecht  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-180- 64 25 70  
Fax: +31-180-64 25 71  
E-mail: sales@mtex.nl

Since 1997, Mehadrin Group (see paragraph 5.2.6) has a subsidiary, MTex Holland, that is responsible for the Netherlands, Belgium and the German speaking countries.<sup>218</sup>

MTex Holland is closely cooperating with Olympic Fruit, a subsidiary of the Olympic Food Group (see paragraph 7.1.22).<sup>219</sup> The companies are located at the same address as MTex in Barendrecht. The fruit trader, among others, is putting Israeli grapes originating from the Jordan Valley on the Dutch market in cooperation with Mehadrin.<sup>220</sup>

Olympic Fruit is working with the key supermarket chains, including Albert Heijn (see paragraph 7.1.2), Jumbo/C1000 (see paragraph 7.1.14) and Plus (see paragraph 7.1.23).<sup>221</sup> However, no evidence is found that grapes or other produce originating from the Jordan Valley is actually delivered by MTex Holland or Olympic Fruit to these supermarket chains.

## 6.2 Beverages

### 6.2.1 Eden Springs / Mayanot Eden

Eden Springs (Nederland) B.V.  
Vareseweg 140  
3047 AV Rotterdam  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-10-220 00 21  
Fax: +31-10-220 00 04  
Website: [www.edensprings.nl](http://www.edensprings.nl)

Mayanot Eden Ltd. is a large Israeli producer of bottled water, listed on the Tel Aviv stock exchange. The European activities of Mayanot Eden are controlled by Eden Springs B.V. and its subsidiary Eden Springs Europe B.V., two Dutch holding companies registered in Amsterdam. Eden Springs' activities on the Dutch market are managed by a separate company located in Rotterdam, a full subsidiary of Eden Springs Europe B.V. The water that Eden Springs sells in the Netherlands is tapped in the Netherlands.<sup>222</sup>

Mayanot Eden  
19 Lehi Street  
51200 Bnei Brak  
Israel  
Tel: +972-3-577 78 81  
Fax: +972-3-616 55 51  
Website: [www.meyeden.co.il](http://www.meyeden.co.il)

Mayanot Eden is the Israeli parent company of Eden Springs. Its Salukia spring from which it taps its water for the Israeli market is located in the Golan Heights, in the Syrian occupied territories. Its bottling plant is located in Katzrin, a Golan Heights industrial zone. In Israel its water is sold under the Mey Eden brand name.<sup>223</sup>

### 6.2.2 Sodastream

SodaStream International B.V.  
Provinciënbaan 16  
5121 DL Rijen  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-765-44 42 22  
Fax: +31-765-41 19 60  
E-mail: [info-nl@sodastream.com](mailto:info-nl@sodastream.com)  
Website: [www.sodastream.nl](http://www.sodastream.nl)

Soda-Club Worldwide B.V.  
Provinciënbaan 16  
5121DL Rijen  
Website: [www.sodaclub.com](http://www.sodaclub.com)

Israeli producer SodaStream (see paragraph 5.5.1) has two businesses registered in the Netherlands.<sup>224</sup> The Group's operational activities are managed by its wholly owned subsidiary, SodaStream International B.V., registered in the Netherlands. Also Sodastream's European commercial and logistics center is managed from Rijen, the Netherlands.<sup>225</sup> Both SodaStream International and Soda-Club Worldwide are wholly-owned subsidiaries of SodaStream International Ltd.

Sodastream's main production plant is located in Mishor Adumim, an Israeli settlement in the occupied West Bank (see paragraph 5.5.1).<sup>226</sup>

## 6.3 Plastic products

### 6.3.1 Keter / European Plastic Group

European Plastic Group  
Ericssonstraat 17  
5121MK Rijen  
Tel: +31-161 22 83 00  
Website: [www.jardin.nl](http://www.jardin.nl)

Israeli Keter Group (see paragraph 5.7.1) has various operations in the Netherlands. The European subsidiaries of Keter Group are grouped within the European Plastic Group, based in Rijen.

One of Keter's European subsidiaries is the Dutch company Jardin, which is one of the largest producers of plastic garden furniture in the Netherlands and is among the top three producers in Europe.<sup>227</sup> Curver is another well-known Keter-brand, producing plastic products in the Netherlands and other European countries.<sup>228</sup> Keter Europe Gardening, engaged in the sale of plastic consumer products is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Keter Plastics Israel.<sup>229</sup>

Keter and its subsidiary Lipski, operate two factories in the Barkan Industrial Park, located in the occupied West Bank (see paragraph 5.7.1).<sup>230</sup> No information about the products of these plants is available in public sources. Only Keter-branded products available on the Dutch market possibly originate from the Barkan Industry Zone.

## 6.4 Chemical products

### 6.4.1 Biosolve

Biosolve B.V.  
Leenderweg 78  
5555 CE Valkenswaard  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-40-2071300  
Fax: +31-40-2048537  
Website: [www.biosolve-chemicals.com](http://www.biosolve-chemicals.com)

Biosolve markets and distributes Bio-Lab's (see paragraph 5.9.1) products in Europe.<sup>231</sup> Bio-Lab is located in Atarot Industrial Zone in the occupied West Bank.<sup>232</sup>

## 6.5 Other products and services

### 6.5.1 Better Place

Better Place B.V.  
Herikerbergweg 238  
Luna Arena  
1101CM Amsterdam Zuidoost  
The Netherlands  
Email: info@betterplace.com  
Website: www.betterplace.co.il

Better Place Netherlands has opened the first Battery Switch Station in Western Europe outside of Denmark at Amsterdam Schiphol airport in September 2012. The station allowing non-stop electric driving through a switchable battery is part of the Better Place Consortium, “*Greening European Transportation Infrastructure for Electric Vehicles*”, and was built in cooperation with the Airport Schiphol and co-financed by the European Union’s Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T). It is servicing Renault Fluence Z.E. taxi’s from Dutch companies Connexion, Bios en TCA. It is planned to open a second station in Amsterdam in the course of 2013.<sup>233</sup>

Better Place Global Services  
13 Ha'amal Street  
Afek industrial Park  
Rosh-Ha'ayin, 48092  
Israel  
Tel: +972-73-777 97 77  
Fax: +972-3-644 86 99  
Email: info@betterplace.com  
Website: www.betterplc.co.il

The parent company of the Dutch Better Place activities is Better Place Global Services, an Israeli-American company that developed a switchable-battery model for electric cars. The research and development activities of the company are located in Israel and it is expected that also the company headquarter will be relocated from California to Tel Aviv in the course of the company’s restructuring and down-sizing after several investors withdrew from the company.<sup>234</sup>

Better Place is running one battery station in Katzrin on the occupied Golan Heights and two on the no. 90 through the occupied Jordan Valley (close to the settlement Tomer and between Kalia en Beit Ha’arava).<sup>235</sup> This is a street that may only be used by Israelis, thus predominantly supporting the economy of the settlements.<sup>236</sup>

### 6.5.2 Delek Group

Delek Benelux  
Kobi Shmerler  
CGO - Corporate Governance Officer/Secretary  
Princenhagelaan 9, 4813 DA Breda  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-76-523 94 50  
Mobile: +31-6-12 92 33 97  
E-mail: kobi.shmerler@d-eur.com  
Website: www.d-bnl.be

Israeli Delek Group has a wholly-owned subsidiary in Europe, Delek Benelux, which was bought from Chevron in 2007. Delek is running various fuel stations in the three Benelux countries under the brand Texaco, which it is allowed to use, as well as stations under private brands.<sup>237</sup> Delek Benelux is based in the Netherlands.

Delek Group Headquarters  
7 Giborei Israel Street  
P.O. Box 8464  
Netanya 42504  
Israel  
Tel: +972-9-863 84 44  
Fax: +972-9-885 49 55  
Email: investor@delek-group.com  
Website: www.delek-group.com

Delek Group is an internationally operating Israel-based company. It was founded in 1951 and is listed on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. Its main focus is energy, selling fuel, gas and electricity, but it also sells cars, financial services and it sells general supplies at convenience stores.<sup>238</sup> Delek holds a 23% market share of the gas stations in Israel.<sup>239</sup>

Delek's subsidiary, Delek Fuel Israel, owns and operates a chain of Delek gas stations and Menta convenience stores in West Bank settlements of Alfei Menashe, Ariel and Givat Ze'ev and in the settlement neighbourhoods in East Jerusalem: Neve Ya'akov, and the French Hill. Additionally, NGO research found that the company supplied fuel for construction projects in the settlement of Carmel.<sup>240</sup>

### 6.5.3 Egged Israel Transport

EBS Public transportation B.V.  
Nieuwe Gouw 8  
1442 LE Purmerend  
The Netherlands  
Tel: 0800-0-327  
Website: www.ebs-ov.nl

EBS (Egged Bus Systems) Public Transportation B.V. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Egged Holding, based in Purmerend, the Netherlands. Since December 2011, EBS has taken over the public transport in Waterland region, North Holland. This concession is exploited on behalf of the city region of Amsterdam.<sup>241</sup>

Egged Israel Transport  
Egged Building  
P.O. Box 43  
Airport City 70150  
Israel  
Tel: +972-3-694 88 88  
Fax: +972-3-914 22 37

Egged Cooperative, the Israeli parent of Egged Holding, was established in 1933, when four public transportation companies were merged into one. Egged operates 55% of the country's public transportation service lines, making it the largest transportation operator in Israel.<sup>242</sup> The company operates public transportation to almost all settlements, including remote outposts. The company owns a fleet of 45 armoured "Mars Defender" buses, specifically designed and manufactured by Merkavim, which serves the settlements in the regional councils of Shomron, Gush Etzion, Mateh Binyaimn and Har Hebron.<sup>243</sup>

## Chapter 7 Dutch companies trading with settlements

The Dutch companies described in the following sections have been found to have direct business relations with the settlements, either through importing or selling imported settlement produce or conducting business activities in occupied areas. Besides information on business links with settlement companies, for retailers also the results from shop visits are provided. As mentioned earlier, this list does not claim comprehensiveness, as a lack of company information and clear labelling means that products and business links are difficult to identify.

### 7.1 Dutch companies importing or selling from settlements

#### 7.1.1 Aartsenfruit

Aartsenfruit B.V.  
Heilaar-Noordweg 9  
4814 RR Breda  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-76-524 81 00  
Fax: +31-76-522 12 47  
E-mail: breda@aartsenfruit.nl  
Website: www.aartsenfruit.nl

Aartsenfruit imports fruits and vegetables from roughly 35 countries into the Benelux. They supply to about a thousand different buyers every week.

*Business links with the occupation:*

- Aartsenfruit lists Arava Export Growers (see paragraph 5.2.3) and Mehadrin (see paragraph 5.2.6) as supplying partners.<sup>244</sup> Both of them are sourcing produce from Israel as well as occupied territories.

#### 7.1.2 Albert Heijn / Royal Ahold

Royal Ahold  
Piet Heinkade 167-173  
1019 GM Amsterdam  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-88-659 51 00  
E-mail: communications@ahold.com  
Website: www.ahold.com

Albert Heijn supermarkets are part of Royal Ahold, an international retailing group based in the Netherlands.

In October 2012, Dutch organization Cordaid discovered that dates sold in Albert Heijn labelled as originating from Israel actually came from the occupied West Bank. In a reaction, the retailer denied allegations of misleading and stated that consumers who want to know whether a product comes from a settlement could ask for the address of the grower. In addition it was stated that Albert Heijn had that same month switched to date suppliers from actual Israeli origin.<sup>245</sup>



In reply to an information request for this research, the retailer communicated that if products originate from settlements in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip, “*this will be mentioned on the relevant product if labelling of origin is required by law*”. Albert Heijn refers to the initiative of the retailers’ organisation CBL to ask the government for clarification on the labelling requirements of products sourced from occupied territories (see paragraph 3.4). The retailer states to wait for the results from this discussion.

The company demands its suppliers not to mix finished products from the Palestinian territories with products from Israel. It states further that “*at present, Albert Heijn is selling no fruit and vegetable products from the occupied Palestinian territories.*”<sup>246</sup>

*Business links to the occupation:*

- Various Gall & Gall shops, which are part of Royal Ahold, sell SodaStream syrups (see paragraph 5.5.1).<sup>247</sup> While the syrups are produced in Israel, the main production site for SodaStream machines is located in a settlement.
- Olympic Fruit (see paragraph 7.1.22), a large Dutch fruit importer, is a supplier of Albert Heijn.<sup>248</sup> Olympic Fruit is cooperating with the Israeli Mehadrin Group (see paragraph 5.2.6) and, among others, selling grapes from the occupied Jordan Valley on the Dutch market.<sup>249</sup>

*Results of shop visits:*

- Various Gall & Gall shops sell SodaStream syrups.

### 7.1.3 Anaco & Greeve

Anaco & Greeve International B.V.  
ABC Westland 666  
2585 DH Poeldijk  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-174-63 86 66  
E-mail: info@anacogreeve.nl  
Website: www.anacogreeve.nl

Anaco & Greeve International is the result of the merger between the companies Greeve Citrus en Anaco International B.V. in 2002. Anaco & Greeve International is offering a broad selection of imported fruit and vegetable to wholesale, retail en food industry.<sup>250</sup>

*Business links to the occupation:*

- Anaco & Greeve is importing peppers supplied by Israeli fruit and vegetable trader AdaFresh (see paragraph 5.2.1).<sup>251</sup> AdaFresh is sourcing from Israel as well as the occupied West Bank.

### 7.1.4 Cosmetix

Cosmetix  
Verlengde Hoofdstraat 1D  
9693 AB Nieuweschans  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-598-398152  
E-mail: info@cosmetix.nl  
Website: www.cosmetix.nl

Cosmetix is an online cosmetics shop, part of VitAdvice.

*Business links with the occupation:*

- Cosmetix is selling Ahava products. Dead Sea Laboratories (see paragraph 5.6.1) has its production plant, a laboratory and a visitor centre in the Mitzpe Shalem settlement in the West Bank.<sup>252</sup>

*Results of shop visits:*

- Cosmetix is offering Ahava products by Israeli producer Dead Sea Laboratories in its webshop.<sup>253</sup>

### 7.1.5 De Wijnstok

Slijterij De Wijnstok  
Fred. Hendrikstraat 34 a  
2628 TC Delft  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-15-256 85 67  
Fax: +31-15-257 19 14  
E-mail: b.kooiman@de-wijnstok.nl  
Website: www.de-wijnstok.nl

De Wijnstok is a wine shop and online shop.

*Business links with the occupation:*

- De Wijnstok is selling wines from Golan Heights Winery (see paragraph 5.4.1). The Golan Heights winery is located in a settlement in the Golan Heights where it also has several vineyards.<sup>254</sup>

*Results of shop visits:*

- De Wijnstok offers wines from winery Golan Heights in its webshop.<sup>255</sup>

### 7.1.6 Eriks

Eriks  
Toermalijnstraat 5  
1812 RL Alkmaar  
Postbus 280  
1800 BK Alkmaar  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-72-514 15 14  
Fax: +31-72-515 56 45  
E-mail: info@eriks.nl  
Website: www.eriks.nl

Eriks is a member of the internationally operating Eriks Group, a supplier to the process industry and to equipment manufacturers active in 27 countries around the world.

*Business links with the occupation:*

- Eriks is selling A.R.I. Flow Control products (see paragraph 5.8.1). A.R.I. Flow Control is located in an Israeli settlement on the occupied Golan Heights.<sup>256</sup>

*Results of shop visits:*

- Eriks Netherlands is offering valves produced by A.R.I. Flow Control in its webshop.<sup>257</sup>

### 7.1.7 Farmashoonline

Farmashoonline.nl  
Service Apotheek Malden B.V.  
Schoolstraat 8  
6581 BG Malden  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-24 -358 24 18  
Fax: +31-24 -358 35 16  
E-mail: Klantenservice@farmashoonline.nl  
Website: www.farmashoonline

Farmashoonline is an online pharmacy.

#### *Business links with the occupation:*

- Farmashoonline is selling Ahava products. Dead Sea Laboratories (see paragraph 5.6.1) has its production plant, a laboratory and a visitor centre in the Mitzpe Shalem settlement in the West Bank.<sup>258</sup>

#### *Results of shop visits:*

- Farmashoonline is offering Ahava products by Israeli producer Dead Sea Laboratories in its webshop.<sup>259</sup>

### 7.1.8 FloraHolland

FloraHolland  
Legmeerdijk 313  
1431 GB Aalsmeer  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-297-39 39 39  
Email: klantenservice@floraholland.com  
Website: www.floraholland.com

FloraHolland is the leading flower trader in the Netherlands, dealing with 98% of the auctioned flowers in the country.<sup>260</sup> A large share of these flowers is re-exported to other destinations, often in mixed country consignments.<sup>261</sup> Israel is the third most important source for flower imports by FloraHolland.<sup>262</sup> Part of the Israeli flower exports originate from settlements in occupied territories.<sup>263</sup>

#### *Business links with settlement companies:*

- Until its collapse in 2011, the previous Agrexco was an important flower supplier for FloraHolland.<sup>264</sup> Agrexco also sourced from growers in Israeli settlements in occupied territories (see paragraph 5.2.2). Producers who previously marketed their flowers through Agrexco joined other organizations, including the International Flower Board (FBI). In 2012, FloraHolland in cooperation with the FBI assembled a new sales team in Israel that helps producers in marketing their products.<sup>265</sup> FloraHolland does not have a policy to exclude produce from settlements in occupied territories.<sup>266</sup>

### 7.1.9 Gradatim

Gradatim B.V.  
Delftweg 81-A  
2289 BB Rijswijk  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-70-355 06 58  
E-mail: info@le-connaisseur.nl

Gradatim is operating several culinary webshops, among them Le Connaisseur and 1 in Wijn.

#### *Business links with the occupation:*

- Gradatim is selling Golan Heights wine (see paragraph 5.4.1). The Golan Heights winery is located in a settlement in the Golan Heights where it also has several vineyards.<sup>267</sup>

#### *Results of shop visits:*

- Both the Le Connaisseur and the 1 in Wijn webshops offer Golan Heights wines.<sup>268</sup>

### 7.1.10 Haluco

Klappolder 224  
2665 MR Bleiswijk  
Postbus 208  
2665 ZL Bleiswijk  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-10-524 36 00  
Fax: +31-10-524 36 04  
E-mail: info@haluco.nl  
Website: www.haluco.nl

Haluco is a Dutch company selling fruits and vegetables, both from domestic origin and from abroad. It is for 60% owned by Total Produce, a leading international fruit and vegetable trader. Haluco produces amongst others for the brand names of Perfekt and Ideal.<sup>269</sup> Perfekt is a private label of Superunie, a purchasing organisation of 13 independent retailers, including Plus, Hoogvliet, Emté and Vomar.<sup>270</sup>

#### *Business links with the occupation:*

- Haluco works together with AdaFresh (see paragraph 5.2.1) to import peppers, and aims to take over the activities of Agrexco (see paragraph 5.2.1).<sup>271</sup> AdaFresh is sourcing from Israel and from settlements in the occupied West Bank. Many of the farmers working with Agrexco before its bankruptcy were producing in settlements.

Haluco confirmed that they have relationships with various Israeli suppliers of which some offer a number of products sourced from settlements. They do not want to confirm which suppliers they work with and whether AdaFresh is one of them. Haluco states to keep these products strictly segregated as several of their customers only want products from Israel and not from occupied territories.

In reply to the question how it can be guaranteed that produce Haluco sources is indeed originating from Israeli territory and not from illegal settlements, the company states further that imports have to be marked with postcodes which Haluco is checking and also uses for the customs reporting.<sup>272</sup>

### 7.1.11 Hanos

Hanos  
Postbus 10378  
7301 GJ Apeldoorn  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-50-529 44 44  
Website: [www.hanos.nl](http://www.hanos.nl)

Hanos is a wholesaler, distributing food and non-food products to hotels, restaurants and other large consumers.

**Figure 5 Products from settlement companies sold in Hanos**



#### *Business links with the occupation:*

- Hanos is selling produce by Mehadrin (see paragraph 5.2.6) and Hadiklaim (see paragraph 5.2.5). Both suppliers source also from settlements in the occupied territories.

#### *Results of shop visits:*

- Mehadrin Jaffa citrus fruits and Hadiklaim Medjoul dates were spotted in Hanos Groningen.

### 7.1.12 Il Divino

Il Divino  
Bussumerstraat 6  
Hilversum  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-356-22 91 59  
E-mail: [info@ildiVino.nl](mailto:info@ildiVino.nl)  
Website: [www.ildiVino-wijnwinkel.nl](http://www.ildiVino-wijnwinkel.nl)

Il Divino is a Dutch wine dealer.

#### *Business links with the occupation:*

- Il Divino is listed as an official distributor by Tishbi Estate Winery (see paragraph 5.4.2).<sup>273</sup> Il Divino informed us that they purchase the wines from Karo Kado, the European representative of Tishbi (see paragraph 7.1.15).<sup>274</sup>

#### *Results of shop visits:*

- Il Divino is offering wines from Tishbi Estate Winery on its website. Tishbi owns a vineyard in the occupied West Bank and another one in a settlement on the Golan Heights.<sup>275</sup>

### 7.1.13 Israël Producten Centrum

Israël Producten Centrum  
Patroonstraat 1  
Postbus 1046  
3860 BA Nijkerk  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-332-45 88 14  
E-mail: info@ipc-nijkerk.nl  
Website: www.ipc-nijkerk.nl

The Israël Producten Centrum is a Dutch shop, founded by Christians to (economically) support Israel in general and kibbutzim specifically. They import and sell a wide range of products, often made in kibbutzim and settlements.

#### *Business links with the occupation:*

The Israël Producten Centrum is selling products from Achdut (see paragraph 5.3.2) and Ram Quality Products (see paragraph 5.7.2). Both companies are active in settlements.

#### *Results of shop visits:*

- Achdut Achva halva bars and Interstar toys produced by Ram Quality Products are offered in the webshop.<sup>276</sup>

### 7.1.14 Jumbo Group

Jumbo Group  
Rijksweg 15  
5462 CE Veghel  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-413-38 02 00  
Fax: +31-413-34 36 34  
Website: www.jumbosupermarkten.nl

Jumbo and C1000 supermarkets since 2011 form part of Jumbo Group Holding, and account of a retail market share of 23% in the Netherlands.<sup>277</sup>

**Figure 6 Products from settlement companies sold in Jumbo-C1000 branches**



#### *Business links with the occupation:*

- Jumbo/C1000 are selling produce from Agrexco Carmel (see paragraph 5.2.2), Mehadrin (see paragraph 5.2.6) Achdut (see paragraph 5.3.2) and Abadi Bakery (see paragraph 5.3.1). These companies are either located in settlements or have been found to source from occupied territories.

- Olympic Fruit (see paragraph 7.1.22), a large Dutch fruit importer, is a supplier of Jumbo/C1000.<sup>278</sup> Olympic Fruit is cooperating with the Israeli Mehadrin Group (see paragraph 5.2.6) and, among others, selling grapes from the occupied Jordan Valley on the Dutch market.<sup>279</sup>

*Results of shop visits:*

- During store visits to Jumbo branches in Amsterdam and Utrecht, Agrexco Carmel citrus fruit was spotted.
- In a C1000 shop in Amsterdam, avocado, khaki fruit and citrus from Mehadrin was spotted, as well as Achva cake and Abadi Bakery bread rings.

In reply to our request for a statement on Jumbo Group's policy regard business with settlement companies, the retailer referred to the steps taken by the CBL in order to achieve clarity on the legal status of settlement products (see paragraph 3.4).

### 7.1.15 Karo Kado

Karo Kado V.o.f.  
 Maarten Lutherweg 149  
 1185 AM Amstelveen  
 The Netherlands  
 E-mail: info@karo-kado.com  
 Website: www.karo-kado.com

*Business links with settlement companies:*

- Karo Kado is the representative for Tishbi Estate Winery (see paragraph 5.4.2) in Europe.<sup>280</sup> Tishbi Estate Winery owns a vineyard in the occupied West Bank and another one in a settlement on the Golan Heights.<sup>281</sup> Tishbi does not provide accurate information as to the origin of the grapes in each of its wines.<sup>282</sup>

### 7.1.16 Keterim

Keterim  
 Jac. Dutilhweg 205  
 3065 KA Rotterdam  
 The Netherlands  
 Tel: +31-10 202 33 77  
 Fax: +31-10 202 14 10  
 E-mail: info@keterim.nl

*Business links with the occupation:*

- Keterim is an independent, Dutch-owned importer of plastic storage buildings, sheds and storage boxes produced by Keter Plastics (see paragraph 5.7.1) in Israel.<sup>283</sup>

*Results of shop visits:*

- Keterim offers a large variety of Keter plastic products in its online shop.<sup>284</sup> However, there is no evidence that the products are produced in one of the plants in Israeli settlements on the West Bank.



### 7.1.17 Kring Pharmacies

Kring-apotheek B.V.  
Postbus 210  
5201 AE 's-Hertogenbosch  
Pomphoekweg 1  
5222 BE 's-Hertogenbosch  
The Netherlands  
Tel: 088-104 05 55  
Fax: 088-104 03 93  
E-mail: Klantenservice@kring-apotheek.nl  
Website: www.kring-apotheek.nl

Kring Apotheek is a collective of almost 300 pharmacies throughout the Netherlands.<sup>285</sup>

#### *Business links with the occupation:*

- Kring Apotheek is selling Ahava products. Dead Sea Laboratories (see paragraph 5.6.1) has its production plant, a laboratory and a visitor centre in the Mitzpe Shalem settlement in the West Bank.<sup>286</sup>

#### *Results of shop visits:*

- Ahava products by Israeli producer Dead Sea Laboratories have been spotted during store visits in several Kring pharmacies and are available in the webshop.<sup>287</sup>

### 7.1.18 Media Markt / Saturn

Media Markt Saturn Holding Nederland B.V.  
Prins Alexanderplein 32-36  
3067 GC Rotterdam  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-10-207 65 00  
E-mail: contact@saturn-info.nl / contact@mediamarkt-info.nl

Media Markt and Saturn are two consumer electronics retailers present in the Netherlands. The retail-chains are majority-owned by German Metro.<sup>288</sup>

**Figure 7 SodaStream machines sold in Saturn**





*Business links with the occupation:*

- Both Media Markt and Saturn are listed as Dutch retail partners by SodaStream (see paragraph 5.5.1), a producer of home beverage carbonation systems with production in a settlement location.

*Results of shop visits:*

- SodaStream appliances and accessories were spotted in Saturn Amsterdam.

### 7.1.19 Multiwijn

Multiwijn  
Mondriaanlaan 1  
1701 TB Heerhugowaard  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-72-520 19 86  
Fax: +31-84-837 72 76  
E-mail: info@multiwijn.nl  
Website: www.multiwijn.nl

Multiwijn is an online wine shop.

*Business links with the occupation:*

- Multiwijn is selling wines from Golan Heights Winery (see paragraph 5.4.1).<sup>289</sup> The Golan Heights winery is located in a settlement in the Golan Heights where it also has several vineyards.<sup>290</sup>

*Results of shop visits:*

- Multiwijn offers Golan Heights Winery Yarden wine in its webshop.<sup>291</sup>

### 7.1.20 Nature's Pride

Nature's Pride  
Honderdland 70  
2676 LS Maasdijk  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-174-52 59 00  
Fax: +31-174-52 59 09  
E-mail: info@naaturespride.nl  
Website: www.naturespride.nl

Nature's Pride is a Dutch importer of fruit and vegetables, with a focus on exotic produce. The company claims to be the market leader in ready-to-eat mango, avocado and papaya, marketed under the "Eat me" label.<sup>292</sup> Nature's Pride names Attent, C1000, Coop, Deen, Emté, Hoogvliet, Makro, Plus, Sligro, Spar and Vomar as customers.<sup>293</sup>

In a statement from January 2013, Nature's Pride states to be worried about the situation in Palestina, which already led to a considerable move in the sourcing of herbs sold by the company. The company has taken the following steps:

- Suppliers are asked to make transparent where exactly products are originating from;
- The company communicates to Israeli suppliers that they do not want to receive produce from settlements;
- Nature's Pride is phasing into production from other countries that can offer an alternative to products from settlements, with a focus on Ethiopia. This switch to new suppliers has already been witnessed for herbs in 2012.

However, as production of herbs in Ethiopia is not yet sufficient, the company states not to be able to switch completely to other suppliers yet but has to keep some sourcing from Israel for the time being.<sup>294</sup>

*Business links with the occupation:*

- The company imports various fruit and vegetables from Israel, including herbs, citrus fruit, pomegranate, mango and Medjool dates. Nature's Pride lists Edom Fruits (see paragraph 5.2.4) as a supplier of dates, mangos and pomegranate from Israel.<sup>295</sup> Edom Fruits and its sister company Edom UK are known to also operate in a settlement. The packing house of Edom is based in the agricultural area of the settlement of Tomer in the occupied West Bank.<sup>296</sup>

### 7.1.21 Nedis

Nedis B.V.  
De Tweeling 28  
5215 MC `s-Hertogenbosch  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-73 599 10 55  
Fax: +31-73 599 96 99  
E-mail: info@nedis.nl  
Website: www.nedis.nl

Nedis is an importer, distributor and exporter of consumer electronics, based in the Netherlands. From the distribution centre they deliver to retailers.<sup>297</sup>

*Business links with the occupation:*

- Nedis sells Barkan Mounts products (see paragraph 5.8.2). Barkan Mounts has its headquarter in a settlement.<sup>298</sup>

*Results of shop visits:*

- Nedis sells screen mounts from Barkan Mounts in its webshop.<sup>299</sup>

Nedis informed us that the company does not want to comment on its business links with a settlement company.<sup>300</sup>

### 7.1.22 Olympic Fruit

Olympic Fruit  
Handelscentrum ZHZ 40-A  
2991 LD Barendrecht  
Postbus 253, 2990 AG Barendrecht  
The Netherlands  
Tel +31-180-64 62 00  
Fax +31-180-64 39 40  
E-mail: info@olympicfruit.com  
Website: www.olympicfruit.com

Olympic Fruit, part of the Olympic Food Group, is an importer/exporter of (exotic) fruits. Olympic Fruit is working with the key supermarket chains, including Albert Heijn (see paragraph 7.1.2), Jumbo/C1000 (see paragraph 7.1.14) and Plus (see paragraph 7.1.23).<sup>301</sup>

*Business links with the occupation:*

- MTex Holland (see paragraph 6.1.4), part of the Mehadrin Group (see paragraph 5.2.6), is closely cooperating with Olympic Fruit.<sup>302</sup> The companies are located at the same address as MTex in Barendrecht.
- The fruit trader, among others, is putting Israeli grapes originating from the Jordan Valley on the Dutch market in cooperation with Mehadrin.<sup>303</sup>

### 7.1.23 Plus / Sperwer Groep

Sperwer Holding  
Postbus 21  
3730 AA De Bilt  
Utrechtseweg 340  
3731 GD De Bilt  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-30-2219211  
Fax: +31-30-2202074  
E-mail: info@sperwer.nl  
Website: www.plus.nl

Plus has more than 250 supermarkets in the Netherlands, which are run by more than 200 independent entrepreneurs which are part of the Sperwer Groep.<sup>304</sup>

*Business links with the occupation:*

- Plus branches are listed as sales points for SodaStream syrups (see paragraph 5.5.1).<sup>305</sup> While the syrups are produced in Israel, the main production for SodaStream machines is located in a settlement.
- Olympic Fruit (see paragraph 7.1.22), a large Dutch fruit importer, is a supplier of Plus.<sup>306</sup> Olympic Fruit is cooperating with the Israeli Mehadrin Group (see paragraph 5.2.6) and, among others, selling grapes from the occupied Jordan Valley on the Dutch market.<sup>307</sup>

*Results of shop visits:*

- SodaStream syrups were spotted during a store visit in January 2013 in a Plus branch in Arnhem.

Sperwer Groep informed us that it does not want to comment on business links with settlement companies.<sup>308</sup>

### 7.1.24 Revaho

Revaho  
Aartsdijkweg 22, Maasdijk  
P.O. Box 299  
3140 AG Maassluis  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-174-52 54 44  
Fax: +31-174-51 01 80  
E-mail: info@revaho.nl  
Website: www.revaho.nl

Revaho is a Dutch company selling irrigation products for horticulture.

*Business links with the occupation:*

- Revaho sells A.R.I. Flow Control (see paragraph 5.8.1) products.<sup>309</sup> A.R.I. Flow Control is located in an Israeli settlement on the occupied Golan Heights.

*Results of shop visits:*

- Revaho sells valves from A.R.I. Flow Control in its web-shop.<sup>310</sup>

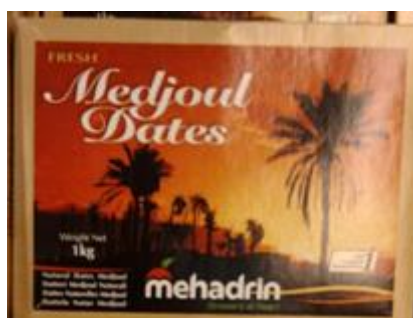
Revaho informed us that the company does not want to comment on business links with settlement companies.<sup>311</sup>

### 7.1.25 Sligro Food Group

Sligro Food Group  
Corridor 11  
PO box 47  
5460 AA Veghel  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-413 34 35 00  
Fax: +31-413 36 30 10  
E-mail: info@sligrofoodgroup.com  
Website: www.sligrofoodgroup.com

Sligro Food Group is selling food and beverages directly and indirectly through food retail and foodservice companies in the Netherlands. These include Emté supermarkets as well as Sligro cash-and-carry.<sup>312</sup>

**Figure 8 Mehadrin dates sold in Sligro**



*Business links with the occupation:*

- Sligro is selling Mehadrin (see paragraph 5.2.6) produce. Mehadrin sources from Israel as well as settlements.<sup>313</sup>

*Results of shop visits:*

- Mehadrin dates were spotted during store visits in January 2013 in Sligro in Groningen.

Sligro informed us that they are currently researching the consequences that the Israeli occupation may have on their procurement policy. The company is via its industry organization CBL in a dialogue on the legal status and the labelling of goods originating from occupied territories (see paragraph 3.4). This consultation is facilitated by the Dutch Contact Point on the OECD Guidelines (NCP).<sup>314</sup>

### 7.1.26 Speelgoed International

Speelgoed International  
Berenkoog 11  
1822 BH Alkmaar  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-72-567 00 09  
Fax: +31-72-567 00 06  
Website: [www.speelgoedinternational.nl](http://www.speelgoedinternational.nl)

Speelgoed International is an online toy shop.

#### *Business links with the occupation:*

- Speelgoed International is selling toys from Ram Quality Products (see paragraph 5.7.2.). The factory of Ram Quality Products is located in the Barkan Industrial Zone in the occupied West Bank.<sup>315</sup>

#### *Results of shop visits:*

- Speelgoed International is offering Ram Quality Products's Interstar plastic toys in its webshop.<sup>316</sup>

### 7.1.27 Stebis

Stebis B.V.  
Morsestraat 40  
4004 JP Tiel  
The Netherlands  
Tel:+31-344-64 04 00  
Fax. +31-344-640401  
E-mail: [info@stebis.nl](mailto:info@stebis.nl)  
Website: [www.stebis.nl](http://www.stebis.nl)

Stebis acts as a distributor providing solutions for niche and mainstream markets in the areas of desktop, notebooks, servers, memory, storage, backup, multimedia and networking and communications.<sup>317</sup>

#### *Business links with the occupation:*

- Stebis sells Barkan Mounts products (see paragraph 5.8.2). Barkan Mounts has its headquarter in a settlement.<sup>318</sup>

#### *Results of shop visits:*

- Stebis is selling TV mounts produced by Barkan Mounts in its webshop.<sup>319</sup>

### 7.1.28 Superunie

C.I.V. Superunie B.A.  
Industrieweg 22 B  
Postbus 80  
4153 ZH Beesd  
Nederland  
Tel. + 31-345-68 66 66  
Fax. +31-345-68 66 00  
Website: [www.superunie.nl](http://www.superunie.nl)

Superunie is a purchasing organization that represents 13 independent retailers in the Netherlands. The organization has a market share of over 30%. Members include Coop, Deen, Hoogvliet, Nettorama, Sligro, Spar, Sperwer Holding (Plus) and A-C Holding (Vomar).

*Business links with the occupation:*

- Nature's Pride names several Superunie members as customers (see paragraph 7.1.20).<sup>320</sup> Nature's Pride lists Edom Fruits (see paragraph 5.2.4) as a supplier of dates, mangos and pomegranate from Israel.<sup>321</sup> Edom Fruits and its sister company Edom UK are known to also operate in a settlement. The packing house of Edom is based in the agricultural area of the settlement of Tomer in the occupied West Bank.<sup>322</sup>
- Haluco, a Dutch company selling fruits and vegetables, supplies amongst others for the Perfekt brand (see paragraph 7.1.10). Perfekt is a private label of Superunie.<sup>323</sup> Haluco works together with AdaFresh (see paragraph 5.2.1) to import peppers, and aims to take over the activities of Agrexco (see paragraph 5.2.1).<sup>324</sup> AdaFresh is sourcing from Israel and from settlements in the occupied West Bank. Many of the farmers working with Agrexco before its bankruptcy were producing in settlements. Haluco confirmed that they have relationships with various Israeli suppliers of which some offer a number of products sourced from settlements. Haluco states to keep these products strictly segregated as several of their customers only want products from Israel and not from occupied territories.<sup>325</sup>

#### 7.1.29 Teva Nederland

Teva Nederland B.V.  
Swenseweg 5,  
2003 RN Haarlem  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-23-514 73 32  
Fax: +31-23-514 76 36  
Website: [www.iloveahava.nl](http://www.iloveahava.nl)

Teva Nederland is the Dutch subsidiary of Israeli company Teva Pharmaceutical Industries.

*Business links with the occupation:*

- Teva Nederland is the distributor of Ahava products by Dead Sea Laboratories (see paragraph 5.6.1) in the Netherlands. Up until recently these were only supplied to Dutch pharmacies.<sup>326</sup> However, since October 2012 it extended its customer base to beauty salons and spa's.<sup>327</sup> Dead Sea Laboratories has its production plant, a laboratory and a visitor centre in the Mitzpe Shalem settlement in the West Bank.<sup>328</sup>

#### 7.1.30 Wijnkoperij Floractive

Wijnkoperij Floractive  
Ferdinand Bolweg 33  
1181 XC Amstelveen  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-6-41 34 47 or +31-6-17 90 62 55  
E-mail: [info@floractive.nl](mailto:info@floractive.nl)  
Website: [www.floractive.nl](http://www.floractive.nl)

Floractive is a Dutch wine dealer.

*Business links with the occupation:*

- Floractive is listed as an official distributor by Tishbi Estate Winery (see paragraph 5.4.2).<sup>329</sup> Tishbi Estate Winery owns a vineyard in the occupied West Bank and another one in a settlement on the Golan Heights.<sup>330</sup> The company does not provide accurate information as to the origin of the grapes in each of its wines.<sup>331</sup>

*Results of shop visits:*

- Floractive is offering wine from Tishbi Estate Winery on its website.<sup>332</sup>

### **7.1.31 Valstar Holland**

Valstar Holland B.V.  
ABC Westland 110  
2685 DB Poeldijk  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-174-53 08 00  
Fax: +31-174-53 08 88  
E-mail: info@valstar.nl  
Website: www.valstar.nl

Valstar Holland is a Dutch fruit and vegetable supplier operating under brand names Via Nova and Discovered.<sup>333</sup>

*Business links with the occupation:*

- Arava Export Growers (see paragraph 5.2.3) is among Valstar's suppliers.<sup>334</sup> The Israeli agri-produce trader is sourcing from Israel and settlements.

## 7.2 Dutch companies active in settlements

### 7.2.1 Kardan

Kardan NV / Tahal Group International B.V.  
Claude Debussylaan 30,  
Vinoly Building, 13th floor  
1082 MD Amsterdam  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-20-305 00 10  
E-mail: info@kardan.nl  
Website:www.kardan.com

Tahal Consulting Engineers Ltd.  
154 Menachem Begin Road  
Tel Aviv 64921, Israel  
P.O.Box 11170,  
Tel Aviv 61111  
Israel  
Tel: +972-3-692 44 34  
E-mail: Yerushalmi-i@tahal.com  
Website: www.tahal.com

Kardan Group NV is Netherlands-based investment group which is focussed on three sectors: real estate, water infrastructure and retail landing. The company is based in Amsterdam and listed on the stock markets of Amsterdam and Tel Aviv. In 2011, Kardan Group generated revenues worth € 436 million.<sup>335</sup>

#### *Business links with the occupation:*

- Kardan's wholly-owned subsidiary Tahal Group International is an international engineering company based in Israel specializing in water and waste-water systems. Tahal has developed the master plan for Jerusalem's waste-water treatment system. When completed, this system will serve the north-eastern settlement neighbourhoods of Jerusalem (Neve Ya'akov and Pisgat Ze'ev), and settlements in the city's surroundings, such as: Giv'at Ze'ev and Beithar lilit, Ma'aleh Adumim, Adam, Anatot and Mitzpeh Yericho. Tahal's plan includes the construction of a sewage treatment plant in the area of Nabi Mussa in the Occupied Jordan Valley, which will be built on Palestinian land. An additional facility that was integrated into the plan, the Og reservoir, is used as a reservoir for treated effluent for date trees irrigation within settlement farms in the occupied Jordan Valley.<sup>336</sup>
- Tahal was also contracted by the Association of Towns in the Ayalon Region, located between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, to dispose and reclaim waste-water from the Ayalon Region. This purified waste-water will be used for irrigation of food and industrial crops in the Ramla and Latrun areas, parts of which are located beyond the green line. Part of this project is a water reservoir in the Latrun Valley in the occupied Palestinian territories.<sup>337</sup>
- Tahal was also awarded a US\$ 15 million (€ 11 million) contract by the Israeli Ministry of Defence to design, plan and prepare road and Infrastructural works for the Zikkim Military Base, close to the Northern border of the Gaza strip.<sup>338</sup>

In a reply to our request for information on the company policy regarding the occupation, Kardan only informed us that it is also active in Israel and adheres to local and international laws.<sup>339</sup>



## Chapter 8 Other Dutch business links with the occupation

### 8.1 Elbit Systems

Elbit Systems  
Advanced Technology Center  
P.O. Box 539  
Haifa 31053  
Israel  
Website: [www.elbitsystems.com](http://www.elbitsystems.com)

Elbit Systems Ltd. is an international defence electronics company. Company shares are traded on the Nasdaq National Market and on the Tel-Aviv Stock Exchange.

Elbit produces among others aerospace equipment, land and naval systems, unmanned aircraft systems, advanced electro-optics and military communications systems.<sup>340</sup>

They are an important supplier to the Israeli military in general, and are said to have been the major supplier of the surveillance equipment used at the separation wall as well as tanks and drones patrolling the West Bank. Unmanned aircraft are used in the surveillance of the Gaza Strip and the Israeli army regularly uses them for targeted assassinations of suspected militants, often leading to civilian deaths.<sup>341</sup>

In the Netherlands, Elbit Systems obtained several contracts from the Ministry of Defence, among them a Battlefield Management System in 2008 and a maintenance workshop for fighter jets in 2011.<sup>342</sup> In 2012, Elbit Systems supplied an advanced training and simulation solution for the Royal Netherlands Army (RNLA).<sup>343</sup>

The Dutch Ministry for Defence confirmed to us the correctness of these business links with Elbit Systems. Which company is awarded an assignment or contract depends on the (technical) requirements of the project. The Ministry is as much as possible aiming for competitive tendering of projects and thus does not see itself in a position to say whether also in the future contracts will be awarded to Israeli defense companies.<sup>344</sup>

### 8.2 Gemalto

Gemalto N.V.  
Barbara Strozilaan 382  
1083 HN Amsterdam  
The Netherlands  
Tel: +31-20 562 06 80  
Website: [www.gemalto.com](http://www.gemalto.com)

Gemalto N.V. is a public company incorporated in the Netherlands, headquartered in Amsterdam. It was formed through French Gemplus buying Dutch Axalto. It has subsidiaries and group companies around the world. Gemalto is working in the areas of personal mobile services, identity protection, payment security, authenticated online services, cloud computing access, modern transportation, M2M communication, eHealthcare and eGovernment services. Among others the company develops secure operating systems for smart cards, banking cards, ePassports, eID cards, tokens and other devices.<sup>345</sup>

According to news sources, Gemalto won the contract to provide Israel's future ID card, containing biometric features.<sup>346</sup> The biometric database containing digital fingerprints and facial photographs, which would be used as a source for the national ID cards, has raised concerns about the sensitive data being vulnerable to exploitation. This is not least due to previous hacks of the national population database.<sup>347</sup>

The ID system has the potential to deliver the instrumentation to segregate ethnic groups. Civil rights organisations see a worrying opportunity for abuse by law enforcement authorities who have access to the database, and fear that these technologies can be used to systematically target certain groups of the population.<sup>348</sup>

## Appendix 1 Overview of settlement products found in Dutch supermarkets

As part of this research, visits were paid to randomly chosen branches of leading retailers in the Netherlands in January and February 2013. In addition to that, various Dutch web shops have been checked in order to verify if products are on sale from companies that have direct links to Israeli settlements in occupied territory. This list does not claim comprehensiveness, but rather provides a snap-shot of the situation.

In total, 68 branches of 29 retailers were visited in various cities throughout the Netherlands (Amsterdam, Arnhem, Groningen, Haarlem, Maastricht, Nijmegen, Utrecht, Veenendaal and Wageningen). Table 1 provides an overview of the retailer branches that were visited in the months of January and February 2013.

**Table 1 Overview of shop visits during January / February 2013**

Retailer	No of branches visited	Cities
Albert Heijn	8	Amsterdam, Groningen, Maastricht, Nijmegen, Utrecht, Wageningen
Aldi	3	Amsterdam, Groningen, Wageningen
BCC	1	Amsterdam
Bijenkorf	2	Amsterdam, Arnhem
Blokker	4	Amsterdam, Utrecht, Veenendaal, Wageningen
C&A	2	Amsterdam, Groningen
C1000	3	Amsterdam, Wageningen
Coop	1	Amsterdam
DekaMarkt	1	Amsterdam
Dirk van den Broek	2	Amsterdam, Utrecht
Dixons	2	Amsterdam, Wageningen
Etos	3	Amsterdam, Maastricht, Wageningen
Gall&Gall	3	Amsterdam, Maastricht, Wageningen, phone calls to other branches
Gamma	2	Amsterdam, Wageningen
Hanos	1	Groningen
Hema	4	Amsterdam, Groningen, Maastricht, Utrecht
Hoogvliet	1	Arnhem
Jumbo	3	Amsterdam, Utrecht
Kring Apotheek	3	Amsterdam, Veenendaal, Wageningen
Kwantum	2	Veenendaal, Wageningen
Leen Bakker	1	Veenendaal
Lidl	2	Amsterdam
Makro	1	Groningen
MediaMarkt	1	Arnhem
Plus	2	Arnhem, Haarlem
Praxis	3	Amsterdam, Veenendaal
Saturn	1	Amsterdam

Retailer	No of branches visited	Cities
Sligro	1	Groningen
V&D	2	Amsterdam, Arnhem
Vomar	2	Amsterdam
Spar	1	Amsterdam

Table 2 provides an overview of retailers that were found to offer products from companies linked to settlements (see Chapter 5 for details).

**Table 2 Overview results of shop visits in January/February 2013**

Retailer	Parent company	# branches product was found	Location	Product	Producer	Company details in section
Hanos	Admidex	1	Groningen	Grapefruit	Mehadrin	5.2.6
Hanos	Admidex	1	Groningen	Dates	Hadiklaim	5.2.5
Farmashop-online	Apotheek Malden	-	Web-shop	Ahava cosmetic products	Ahava Dead Sea Laboratories	5.6.1
Eriks	Eriks Group	-	Web-shop	Valves	A.R.I. Flow Control	5.8.1
Le Connaisseur	Gradatim	-	Web-shop	Red & white wine	Golan Heights Winery	5.4.1
1inWijn	Gradatim	-	Web-shop	Red & white wine	Golan Heights Winery	5.4.1
C1000	Jumbo Group	1	Amsterdam	Avocado	Mehadrin Group	5.2.6
C1000	Jumbo Group	1	Amsterdam	Khaki fruit	Mehadrin Group	5.2.6
C1000	Jumbo Group	3	Amsterdam, Utrecht, Wageningen	Oranges	Mehadrin Group	5.2.6
C1000	Jumbo Group	1	Amsterdam	Cakes	Achdut	5.3.2
C1000	Jumbo Group	1	Amsterdam	Bread Rings	Abadi Bakery	5.3.1
Jumbo	Jumbo Group	2	Amsterdam, Utrecht	Mineolas	Agrexco Carmel	5.2.2
Jumbo	Jumbo Group	2	Amsterdam, Utrecht	Grapefruit	Agrexco Carmel	5.2.2
Saturn	Metro	1	Amsterdam	Home carbonation appliances	SodaStream	5.5.1
Revaho	Netafim (Israel)	-	Web-shop	Valves	A.R.I. Flow Control	5.8.1
Gall & Gall	Royal Ahold	Various	Phone calls to shops	Lemonade syrup	SodaStream	5.5.1
Plus	Sperwer Group	1	Arnhem	Lemonade syrup	SodaStream	5.5.1
Cosmetix	VitAdvice	-	Web-shop	Ahava cosmetic products	Ahava Dead Sea Laboratories	5.6.1
De Wijnstok	-	-	Web-shop	Red & white wine	Golan Heights Winery	5.4.1
Floractive	-	-	Web-shop	Red & white wine	Tishbi Estate Winery	5.4.2
Il Divino	-	-	Web-shop	Red & white wine	Tishbi Estate Winery	5.4.2

<b>Retailer</b>	<b>Parent company</b>	<b># branches product was found</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Product</b>	<b>Producer</b>	<b>Company details in section</b>
Israël Producten Centrum	-	-	Web-shop	Achva halva bar	Achdut	5.3.2
Israël Producten Centrum	-	-	Web-shop	Interstar plastic toys	Ram Quality Products	5.7.2
Keterim	-	-	Web-shop	Plastic storage products	Keter Group	5.7.1
Kring Apotheek	-	3	Amsterdam, Veenendaal, Wageningen	Ahava cosmetic products	Ahava Dead Sea Laboratories	5.6.1
Kring Apotheek Online	-	-	Web-shop	Ahava cosmetic products	Ahava Dead Sea Laboratories	5.6.1
Multiwijn	-	-	Web-shop	Red wine	Golan Heights Winery	5.4.1
Nedis	-	-	Web-shop	TV mounts	Barkan Mounts	5.8.2
Sligro	-	1	Groningen	Dates	Mehadrin	5.2.6
Speelgoed International	-	-	Web-shop	Interstar plastic toys	Ram Quality Products	5.7.2
Stebis	-	-	Web-shop	TV mounts	Barkan Mounts	5.8.2

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