

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

July 18, 2013

Her Excellency Baroness Catherine Ashton  
High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy  
European External Action Service  
1046 Brussels, Belgium

Dear Baroness Ashton,

We are writing to express our deep concern over the European Union's intention to issue new guidelines restricting European interaction with Israeli entities beyond the 1967 lines.

We strongly believe this move is counterproductive to sincere American efforts to restart peace talks between the Israelis and Palestinians. The new guidelines will only serve as a disincentive for the Palestinian Authority to engage in serious final status negotiations.

It is our belief that a sustainable framework for peace can only be decided through direct negotiations between Israeli and Palestinian leadership. Like you, we want to achieve a peaceful, negotiated, solution to this conflict. But, the cause of peace is not advanced by the EU placing blame for lack of progress solely on Israel's shoulders. This is simply not the case.

We encourage you to reconsider the publication of these guidelines and hope to work with you to seek an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Sincerely,



ELIOT L. ENGEL  
Co-Chairman  
Israel Allies Caucus



DOUG LAMBORN  
Co-Chairman  
Israel Allies Caucus



TRENT FRANKS  
Co-Chairman  
Israel Allies Caucus



BRAD SHERMAN  
Co-Chairman  
Israel Allies Caucus