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Brussels,  
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Lien A/09/2953

Dear Dr Lucas,

Thank you very much for your letter of 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2009 concerning recent Israeli government policies restricting the movement of foreigners visiting the occupied Palestinian territory and Israel.

The EU Presidency, in close cooperation with Member States' embassies and the Commission's Delegation in Tel Aviv, has been closely monitoring these measures of consular nature. Early contacts with the relevant Israeli authorities took place at the end of August 2009.

The EU expressed its concern to the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs about these restrictive measures, which further limit the movement of foreigners in the region, and which have affected 13 EU nationals to date.

The Commission understands that the matter is still under review with the Israeli authorities and will continue to follow the matter in cooperation with the EU Presidency and Member States' embassies.

Yours sincerely,

*Benita Ferrero-Waldner*

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*[Signed in the  
Commissioner's absence]*

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