Egypt Welcomes Decisions to Ban Import of Goods from Israeli Settlements

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On 19, 22, 26 July, the Arab Republic of Egypt welcomed the decisions taken by the Belgian Council of Ministers, the Dutch government and Ireland to prohibit the import and trade of goods originating from Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem.

Egypt regarded those measures as concrete expressions of respect for international law and international legitimacy. **It reaffirmed in this context the legal position established by United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334 (2016), which declares Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, to have no legal validity, and calls for an immediate halt to settlement activity in order to preserve the prospects for peace and the two-State solution.**

Consistent with its long standing support for the Palestinian cause, Egypt calls on all European Union member states, as well as the wider international community, to follow the example set by Belgium, the Netherlands and Ireland by adopting similar legal measures restricting trade in settlement products. Egypt reiterates that lasting peace and security in the Middle East cannot be achieved without ending the occupation and enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate right to self-determination, foremost through the establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian State on the basis of the 4 June 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

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