

UN DATABASE

6 COMPLICIT COMPANIES RECEIVING EU TAXPAYERS MONEY



INTRODUCTION

The six companies presented below are listed on the UN database, published along the Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HCR/43/71) in February 2020, for their complicity with serious breaches of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (1). The database lists 112 companies which have been found, following extensive consultation and research by the UN, to be **involved in substantial and material illegal settlement-related business activities**.

This is a **significant tool** that helps states, businesses and civil society to **ensure that companies are not involved or complicit in gross violations through their activities** and relationships in such contexts. In addition, the UN database is an important model for global and European efforts towards regulated corporate conduct and respect for human rights, the environment, and international law. Corporations are often involved in systemic and persistent violations of international law, making profits and expanding their leverage from injustices against indigenous communities, occupied/disputed lands, and environmental degradation. The **prevailing culture of impunity, lack of political will, and the absence of binding regulatory frameworks for corporations** operating in conflict-affected settings have allowed them to continue unabated.

However, the six companies listed in this briefing also received or are **currently receiving European taxpayers money** channeled through the research programs. The weakness of the ethics criteria for eligibility, along with the lack of monitoring from the European Commission, create a **complicity link between the EU and the Israeli illegal settlements**.

A monitoring of those companies activities, along with the activities of the 112 businesses listed on the UN database, as part of the due diligence, is crucial for an improved accountability at the EU level, and for an improved rule of international law and human rights.



J.C. BAMFORD EXCAVATORS

JCB is the world's third-largest construction equipment manufacturer, which manufactures equipment used in the agricultural, construction and defence industries. **The company's tools are used in the construction of Israeli illegal settlements**, settlement industrial zones and infrastructure projects on occupied Palestinian and Syrian land. JCB loaders and excavators were used for the construction of housing projects in West Bank settlements such as Alfei Menashe, Oranit, Ma'ale Adumim, along with construction projects in the Golan Heights, and the building of the Tel Aviv - Jerusalem highway, which crosses the Green Line in two places. Moreover, the company's engineering equipment **contributed to the construction of the wall and checkpoints (2)**.



Olive trees
uprooted by
JCB's Bulldozer
| Al Walaja |
June 2010 |
Photographed
by Who Profits

House demolitions were executed using the company's equipment in the Palestinian villages of Dkeika, Bir al-Eid, Lasefer and Umm Fagarah in the South Hebron Hills, in the East Jerusalem neighbourhoods of Silwan and al-Suwaneh and in the Jordan Valley, or more recently in the village of Khirbet Humsah (3) **leaving dozens of people homeless and without resources**. The wheel loaders models used for these demolitions are 456e ZX and 3CX (4).



HOUSE DEMOLITIONS WERE EXECUTED USING THE COMPANY'S EQUIPMENT



JCB received a grant of **6600€** from the EU for a project called POWERBOND, aiming at developing new technologies to reinforce the adhesive bonding methods for vehicle building. This project was conducted between May 1, 2013, to April 30, 2015, under the 7th Framework Programme (FP7) (5).

MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS ISRAEL

Motorola Solutions Israel is involved in the Israeli occupation for over a decade in **providing systems and services to the Israeli Ministry of Defence**, the Israeli army, and Israeli illegal settlements in occupied territories. The company produced a **Wide Area Surveillance System (WASS)**, known as MotoEagle, that has been installed in **some 20-47 Israeli illegal settlements** deep inside Palestinian Territories in the West Bank, like in Hebron, Karmeit Zzur or Bracha. The system is also installed in several outposts in the West Bank, **in the Separation Wall complex, in the wall around Gaza**, and in military bases.

Motorola Solutions Israel is the leading Israeli company in developing and manufacturing a wide range of **electronic fuzes for aircraft bombs and guided munitions**, which it provides to the Israeli Airforce and for major Israeli defence industries like IAI, IMI and Rafael for a wide range of projects. The company also developed communication systems and a cellular network for the Israeli Army and the Israeli Police. It is therefore deeply integrated into the Israeli military-industrial complex (6).



Motorola radar
detectors | Bracha
illegal Settlement |
April 2011 |
Photographed by
Dror

Motorola Solutions Israel received almost **four million and a half euros** (4 391 305,25€), split over six grants. The first project, IDETECT4ALL (2008-2011), aimed at **developing alerting technologies for surveillance and intruders detection** inside and in the surrounding of Critical Infrastructures (CI). ENERSIP (2010-2012), the second project under FP7, sought to create an adaptive, customisable, and service-oriented ENERGY monitoring and control system for energy grids and decision-makers. Under Horizon 2020 (H2020), the company was granted four different grants, two for projects of management and auditing systems (BeAWARE and TOPAs), and two for **projects of surveillance and counter-terrorism technologies** (CREST and CONNEXIONS). We can therefore argue that **European funds directly helped Motorola Solutions Israel to develop its technologies used against Palestinians** (7).

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**MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS DEVELOPS
ELECTRONIC FUZE FOR GUIDED
MUNITIONS PROVIDED TO THE
ISRAELI DEFENSE FORCES.**

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MEKOROT WATER COMPANY

Mekorot is Israel's national water company and is actively involved in conducting and maintaining the Israeli occupation through **supplying water to illegal settlements and to the Palestinian population, who is prevented from developing its own water sector.** As an example, it is currently advancing the construction of a bypass water pipeline on the lands of the Palestinian village of Bardala in the northern Jordan Valley in the occupied West Bank. The pipeline will transport freshwater **extracted from occupied Palestinian water sources to nearby Israeli illegal settlements, bypassing Palestinian communities** (8).



**MEKOROT HAS BEEN
STEALING WATER FROM
PALESTINIAN COMMUNITIES
FOR YEARS.**



Mekorot Water Company received a cumulated grant of **almost two million euros (1. 795 763,48€)** under both European research programs. Thanks to those fundings, the company conducted eight different projects in the management of water resources and treatment systems from 2008 to this day, and was able to make technical advances (9).

BANK LEUMI

Bank Leumi or Leumi bank is one of Israel's largest banks. It **provides financing for the construction of housing projects in Israeli illegal settlements** in the occupied territories. As an example, in 2017, the bank financed 130 housing units in the illegal settlement of Alfei Menashe, and 92 housing units in the illegal settlement of Pisgat Ze'ev.s. More than accompanying settlements building, Bank Leumi provides **loans and financial services to local authorities of illegal settlements**, like a NIS 5 million loan to the Gush Etzion Regional Council in 2016. The bank is therefore deeply responsible for the construction and expansion of Israeli illegal settlements (10).

In 2019, the European Investment Fund (EIF), part of the European Investment Bank, and Bank Leumi expanded a loan program for tech companies in Israel called LeumiTech. The program was launched in 2016 with **an initial \$100 million**, and expanded in 2017, enabling Bank Leumi to provide financing of up to \$200 million to technology companies in Israel, with the support of a guarantee provided by the EIF and backed under Horizon 2020 (11). Under the 2019 agreement, the EIF and Bank Leumi offer credit amounting to \$600 million (12).

Illegal
Settlement of
Alfei Menashe



ALSTOM

Alstom is a French multinational company operating in the power generation and transport markets. Alstom develops and markets systems, equipment and services for the railway sector. The company is involved in the tramway project in Jerusalem, which aims at **connecting the illegal settlement neighbourhoods in occupied East Jerusalem with the western part of the city and with one another**. The company answered different tenders, like one in December 2016 for a joint pilot project with the Jerusalem light rail and the Israeli company Mobileye (13). There are great suspicions that the company is still involved in the maintenance of the tramway. Job ads published on the Israeli government employment service website in 2019, 2020 and 2021 (In Hebrew) show that Citadis Israel, **Alstom's Israeli subsidiary, continues to provide maintenance services to the Jerusalem Light Rail** (14) (15).

Moreover, on January 29, 2021, Alstom acquired the company Bombardier Transportation, complicit in the A1 project, a fast line between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem that crosses the green line in two places. Since 2012, Bombardier has been providing electrical carriages and locomotives, explicitly dedicated to the A1 line, to Israel railways (ISR). The last order should be delivered before December 2021 (16). **Alstom therefore became accountable for Bombardier Transportation's involvement in the A1 illegal line.**



Jerusalem
light rail

Alstom Transport SA, a branch of the group, received **46 research grants** under both FP7 and Horizon 2020, amounting to **twenty-eight million and a half euros (28 400 933, 07 €)**. The projects were varied: New paradigms for embedded systems, monitoring and control towards complex systems engineering (ADVANCE, 2011-2014), developing 5G for railways communication systems (5GRAIL, 2020-2023), innovations for sustainable development (CLEANER-D, 2009-2014), enhancing railway signalling systems (X2RAIL-2, 2017-2021), etc. (17).

EGIS

Egis is another France-based global group offering engineering and project management services in the sectors of transport, industry, water, environment and energy. In 2007, Egis Rail, the group's railway branch, won an **11.9 million euros contract with the Jerusalem Transportation Master Plan Team (JTMT)** to assist the construction and expansion of the light rail project in Jerusalem (18). Although Egis Rail withdrew from the tender for the construction of the brown line in June 2019, following the pressure of the Caisse des Dépôts, it is still involved in the project. Indeed, several mentions of the company in recent tenders published by the Moriah Jerusalem Development Corporation for infrastructure work on the Jerusalem Light Rail, suggest **Egis remains active in the Jerusalem tramway (19)**.



THE COMPANY WON AN 11.9 MILLION EUROS CONTRACT TO ASSIST THE CONSTRUCTION AND EXPANSION OF THE LIGHT RAIL PROJECT IN JERUSALEM.



While Egis Rail never received European money, the Egis Group and its different branches benefitted from more than **seven hundred thousand euros (717 387, 55€)** since 2013, distributed over eight different research projects. To give a few examples, Egis Mobilite SA participated in four projects under FP7, among which the VIAJEO project (2009-2012) which aimed at creating an open platform to support the transport operations, deliver information, improve the management of cross-modal journey etc (20). Egis Structure and Environment SA took part in two projects under both FP7 and H2020, one of which is ongoing (BISON, 2021-2023) and seeks a better integration of biodiversity with infrastructure planning, construction, operation and decommissioning and support the European Member States to fulfil their international commitments by engaging all stakeholders into biodiversity mainstreaming for infrastructure planning and development (21).

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