

Dutch economic links in support of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and/or Syrian territories

**A research report commissioned by
United Civilians for Peace**

Profundo

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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 (the Fourth Geneva Convention).

Israel's settlements in the Gaza Strip were only dismantled in August 2005. In the West Bank and on the Golan Heights, however, settlements are expanding and new ones are being established. These settlements are a source of grave 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 and human rights

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 products are also relevant for the economy of the settlements. Many international corporations have trade and investment links with these settlement companies, involving them in activities that result in human rights violations.

United Civilians for Peace, a NGO platform in the Netherlands of six peace and development organizations, advocates a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in accordance with international law. In the view of UCP, international trade relationships with the occupation obstruct such a resolution. UCP has therefore commissioned this report, which aims to identify Dutch economic relationships with the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Syrian land.

The research has identified 35 Dutch companies which have direct or indirect relationships with the occupation of Palestinian and/or Syrian territories: 21 companies which have their head office in the Netherlands and 14 Dutch subsidiaries of Israeli companies.

Trade relationships

Settlement products are not easily identified on the Dutch market, as they are usually labelled as "Made in Israel". The practice of labelling products from the settlements as being Israeli has to be seen against the background of the EU-Israel Association Agreement. According to this 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. This enables the customs authorities of the EU member states to distinguish Israeli products from settlement products. Whether this agreement is effective, is not known.

Despite these confusing labelling practices, a total of 23 Israeli settlement companies exporting to the Netherlands were identified:

- Fruit and vegetables: Agrexco, Arava, Hadiklaim, Jordan Plains
- Other food products: Adanim Tea, Amnon & Tamar, Oppenheimer
- Flowers: Agrexco
- Wine: Barkan, Carmel, Golan Heights, Tishbi
- Other beverages: Soda-Club
- Cosmetics: Dead Sea Laboratories, Intercosma

- Plastic products: Keter Plastic, Mapal Plastic Products, Tip Top Toys
- Metal products: A.R.I. Flow Control Accessories, Mul-T-Lock
- Other products: Afic, Bio-Lab, Caesarea Carpets, Ofertex Industries

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 as it has a major office or factory in the settlements.

For a selection of these 23 companies a total of 25 Dutch trading partners were found: 8 Dutch marketing subsidiaries of the Israeli companies concerned and 17 Dutch importers and retailers. Fruit and vegetables imported by these settlement companies are sold by most Dutch supermarket chains, mostly under the Carmel and Jaffa brand names. Flowers from Agrexco are also distributed widely in the Netherlands. Other products exported by settlement companies are sold by well-known Dutch retail chains.

Other Dutch business links with the occupied territories

Two Dutch companies which have invested in settlements in territories occupied by Israel were identified:

- Soda-Club is an Israeli carbonated drinks company which has transferred its legal seat to the Netherlands Antilles and its holding company to the Netherlands. Soda-Club produces carbonated devices in a settlement in the occupied West Bank.
- Unilever is a major Anglo-Dutch food, detergent and personal care company which owns a 51% share in a pretzel and snacks factory located in a settlement in the occupied West Bank.

Two Dutch companies have provided infrastructural services and products which support the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories:

- Interwand Eibergen supplies glass walls for a new terminal at the Erez border crossing between Israel and the occupied Gaza Strip, which is managed by the Israeli Security Department.
- Riwal is renting mobile cranes which are used in building the Israeli separation wall in the occupied West Bank.

Six Israeli companies which are active in the Israeli settlements have a total of 14 subsidiaries in the Netherlands:

- Agrexco: two subsidiaries marketing flowers, vegetables and fruit;
- Arava: two subsidiaries marketing vegetables and fruit;
- Bio-Lab: a subsidiary marketing chemicals;
- Keter Plastic: various subsidiaries marketing plastic household and storage products (Allibert, Curver), producing plastic garden furniture (Jardin) and managing other subsidiaries (Jardin International Holding);
- Mapal Plastic Products: a subsidiary marketing plastic products;
- Mayanot Eden: a joint-venture with Danone marketing bottled water and two financial holding subsidiaries.

Promotion of economic links

In November 2005 the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs stated that “if a Dutch company were to request help from the [Dutch] embassy [in Israel] in doing business with a company located in the occupied territories (or vice versa), the Dutch embassy would not render assistance.” But in practice the policies of Dutch government agencies and institutions with regard to economic links with Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel are less clear:

- Agency for International Business and Cooperation (EVD): economic links with settlements are not excluded;
- Atradius: economic links with settlements are not excluded;
- Ministry of Agriculture: refers questions to the Dutch embassy;
- Netherlands Foreign Investment Agency: policy unclear;
- Royal Netherlands Embassy in Israel: economic links with settlements are not facilitated, but settlement companies might use the embassy’s internet trade portal.

Various private Dutch companies and organizations also promote economic links between the Netherlands and Israel. The following information was found on their policies with regard to economic links with Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel:

- Chamber of Commerce Netherlands-Israel: economic links with settlements are not excluded;
- Christenen voor Israël/Israël Producten Centrum: import of several settlement products;
- Federatie Nederlandse Zionisten: part of the World Zionist Organisation which is actively investing in the settlements;
- Israel Office Delft: relationship with Kfar Sava, not with settlements;
- Joods Nationaal Fonds: part of the Jewish National Fund which is financing settlements;
- KPMG Israeli Desk: economic links with settlements are not excluded;
- OPTIN: economic links with settlements are not excluded.

Economic links with selected foreign companies

Finally, the Dutch economic links with three foreign companies (from the United States, Ireland and France) were researched, as prominent foreign organizations (the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Amnesty International and others) have criticized these companies for their involvement in the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories. The following links were found:

- Caterpillar is an American producer of heavy equipment which is used by the Israeli military for demolition of Palestinian homes and the construction of infrastructure in the Israeli settlements. Caterpillar owns various subsidiaries in the Netherlands involved in logistics, production activities and financing. The company has a banking relationship with ABN AMRO Bank;
- The Irish company Cement Roadstone Holdings is a co-owner of the most important cement supplier to the Israeli separation wall in the occupied West Bank. CRH owns various subsidiaries in the Netherlands, including 129 Gamma and Karwei stores;
- The French company Veolia Environnement is building a light rail system connecting Jerusalem to Israeli settlements in and around occupied East Jerusalem and in the occupied West Bank. Veolia Environnement owns various public transport companies in the Netherlands, providing bus, taxi and ferry transport in a large part of the Netherlands.

Introduction

Since 1967, Israel has occupied the West Bank (including East Jerusalem), the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights. The West Bank and Gaza Strip are known as the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), the Golan Heights are part of Syria. These territories are beyond the Green Line, which is the internationally recognized border of the State of Israel.

Despite the fact that they are occupied, Israel has established settlements in these territories. According to international law, settlements are illegal. Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention (Part 1) states: "The occupying power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies."

Israel's settlements in the Gaza Strip were only dismantled in August 2005. In the West Bank and on the Golan Heights, however, settlements are expanding and new ones are being established. As documented and reported by human rights organizations, these settlements are a source of grave 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.

International trade relationships contribute to the economic viability of the settlements. As a result, foreign corporations may directly or indirectly contribute to human rights violations resulting from the presence of the settlements and the associated regime. This contravenes the social responsibility which corporations have to fulfil by promoting respect for human rights within the realm of their activities and sphere of influence. They must do more than merely apply the domestic laws of a country in which they operate. Corporations must also live up to the rules of international law. They need to gather information on the local human rights situation. On the basis of that information, they should consider how to invest and act. Corporations must never provide any direct support to human rights violations.

Yet, in the case of the occupation of Palestinian and Syrian land by Israel, many international corporations facilitate or are involved in activities that result in human rights violations. United Civilians for Peace wants to know if Dutch companies are among these corporations. United Civilians for Peace (UCP) is a NGO platform in the Netherlands of six peace and development organizations (Cordaid, OxfamNovib, ICCO, Pax Christi, IKV and Kerkinactie). It was founded in 2001 to advocate a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in accordance with international law. In the view of UCP, international trade relationships with the occupation obstruct such a resolution.

UCP has commissioned this research into Dutch economic relationships with the occupation of Palestinian and Syrian territories by Israel. The present report is dedicated in the first place to exposing economic links of Dutch companies with companies operating in settlements in territories occupied by Israel.

In addition to that, the study identifies which Dutch government and private organizations and institutions are promoting business links between the Netherlands and Israel, and in particular, what their policies are with regard to settlement-based companies.

Finally, the study presents a number of economic relationships between Dutch companies and/or the Netherlands, and some selected foreign companies which are strongly involved in facilitating or supporting the occupation in various ways.

It must be said that this study is far from exhaustive, as companies, organizations and institutions often have an interest to keep their economic links with the Israeli occupation hidden. Nevertheless, a variety of links has been identified, which could prompt further investigation.

The structure of this report is as follows: Chapter 1 provides a general overview of economic activities in the settlements in the territories occupied by Israel, highlighting in which economic sectors the settlements companies are active and discussing the trade relationships with the European Union.

Chapter 2 then discusses the Dutch imports from settlements in the territories occupied by Israel. For each company exporting from the settlements to the Netherlands the address and other details are provided. As far as possible their trading partners in the Netherlands are also identified. Each paragraph discusses a different product group exported from the settlements to the Netherlands: fruit and vegetables, other food products, flowers, wine, other beverages, cosmetics and other products.

Chapter 3 looks at other Dutch business links between the Netherlands and the settlements in the territories occupied by Israel. Dutch companies investing in the settlements are identified and described, as well as Dutch companies providing infrastructural services to the occupation and settlement companies with subsidiaries in the Netherlands.

Chapter 4 investigates which Dutch government and private organizations and institutions are promoting business links between the Netherlands and Israel, and in particular, what their policies are with regard to settlement-based companies.

Finally, Chapter 5 discusses the Dutch economic relationships with three foreign companies which are strongly involved in facilitating or supporting the occupation in various ways.

This research for this report was mainly carried out in the fall of 2005. In May 2006 the research report, which was originally written in English, was translated into Dutch by Dirk Hamaker. Some later additions were made until September 2006, notably in the paragraphs 2.2, 3.2 and 5.4).

The research has been carried out in a very careful way and all sources used are referenced. Nevertheless it cannot be excluded that one or more of the economic relationships identified has/have been ended in the mean time or is mentioned wrongly in the sources used.

To give the companies mentioned the possibility to correct wrong or obsolete information, they have been approached by *United Civilians for Peace* before the publication of this research report. All 40 companies which are mentioned with name and address and which are located in the Netherlands have been addressed: 23 Dutch companies, 14 Dutch subsidiaries of Israeli companies and 3 Dutch subsidiaries of companies from Ireland, the United States and France.

These companies have been informed by mail in July and August 2006 about the publication of this report. In the letters the research findings regarding the addressed companies were presented. The companies were asked for an explanation regarding "the nature of the corporate relationship with the Israeli occupation (in particular the settlements) and the vision of the company on the need to contribute to the protection of human rights." From the 40 companies addressed, 9 responses were received (in some cases this concerned a joint response of several sister companies). In four cases these responses gave reason for adapting or supplementing the information in the report on the company concerned.

Chapter 1 Economic activities in territories occupied by Israel

1.1 The economy of the settlements

Since 1967, Israel has occupied the West Bank (including East Jerusalem), the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights. The West Bank and Gaza Strip are known as the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), the Golan Heights are part of Syria. These territories are beyond the *Green Line*, which is the internationally recognized border of the State of Israel.

Despite the fact that they are occupied, Israel has established settlements in these territories. According to international law, settlements are illegal. Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention (Part 1) states: "The occupying power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies."¹



Figure 1. Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank

Israel's settlements in the Gaza Strip were only dismantled in August 2005. In the West Bank and on the Golan Heights, however, settlements are expanding and new ones are being established.

In the settlements and the associated industrial zones, a large number of Israeli companies operate in various industrial sectors. Agricultural production (including flowers) is very important, but industries producing food products, plastic products, cosmetics, and many other products are also relevant.

Despite these 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. In 2005, the Alternative Information Center estimated that since 1967, the total costs of the settlements amount to US\$ 97 billion.²

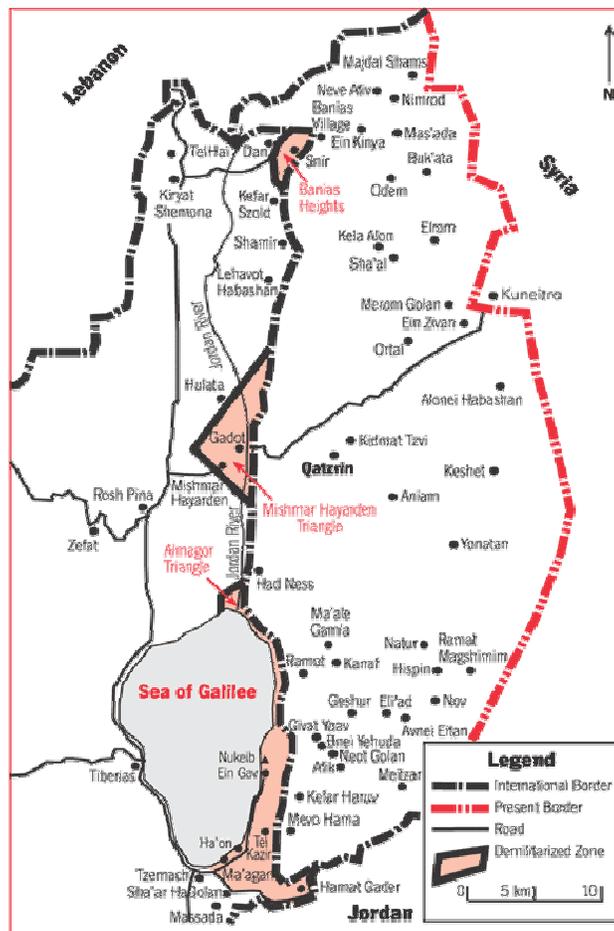


Figure 2. Israeli settlements on the occupied Golan Heights

1.2 Economic relationship with the European Union

Israeli government estimates value the settlements' annual exports to Europe at about US \$ 200 million, comprising mostly agricultural produce, cut flowers, textiles, cosmetics and wine. However, when this total is adjusted to include exports wholly or partially produced in occupied territories, it amounts to no less than US \$ 2 billion, or 20 percent of total Israeli exports to the EU.³

In June 2000 the *EU-Israel Association Agreement* entered into force, regulating bilateral relations between the European Union and Israel. Under this agreement, Israeli exports to the EU are exempted from import duties.

During the past five years, however, there has been a fierce dispute between Israel and the European Union as a result of Israel's *de facto* application of the *EU-Israel Association Agreement* to occupied territories. Israel treats these territories as part of its national territory, whereas according to international law they are not part of Israel. Therefore, settlement products are not eligible for trade benefits such as duty exemptions.

It was not until August 2004 that an agreement, which came into force in February 2005, was reached on this matter. Under the agreement, Israeli goods exported to the EU were to be marked with their place of origin, enabling the customs authorities of the EU member states to distinguish Israeli products from settlement products.⁴ Whether this agreement is effective, is unknown.

The Israeli Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor estimated in November 2004 that US\$ 150 million of exports originate from the settlements in the occupied territories. Because of the new agreement with the EU, the exporters will lose an estimated US\$ 8 million in customs duties. The Ministry was formulating a proposal for insuring the exporters for this loss. According to the Israeli newspaper Globes the government-owned Inbal Insurance Company, which insures special risks, would manage the compensation. Inbal Insurance would absorb the cost of EU customs on Israeli goods originating in the occupied territories, while the exporters would pay only a token insurance charge.⁵ It is not known whether this insurance scheme has been implemented.

1.3 Agriculture

Agriculture is a very important economic sector in the Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel. In the settlements, especially in the Jordan Valley region, various agricultural products are grown. Many of these products are intended for the export market, mainly the European Union. The most important agricultural export products in the settlements are:⁶

- avocados
- dates
- flowers (rose, carnation, gypsophila, a.o.)
- grapefruit
- grapes (as such and processed into wine)
- herbs
- melons
- other citrus fruit
- tomatoes
- cherries
- aubergines
- cucumbers
- peppers

Products grown mainly for the domestic market are:

- maize
- onions
- potatoes

Various sources indicate that crops produced in the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories get mixed with other crops from Israel in the packaging facilities of the big exporting companies. It is therefore useful to look at the official agricultural export statistics of Israel, keeping in mind that these exports originate partly from Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel. Comparative figures for the Israeli agricultural exports in the past ten years are shown in the table below.⁷

Product	Unit	1995	2000	2004
Avocados	thousand tons	38.8	29.8	33.9
Citrus fruit	thousand tons	333.4	283.8	137.8
Melons	thousand tons	17.5	18.8	10.5
Other fruit	thousand tons	31.2	28.9	37.1
Potatoes	thousand tons	30.4	105.1	251.6
Vegetables	thousand tons	33.0	61.7	108.7
Cotton, lint	thousand tons	34.9	14.4	24.5
Total	thousand tons	519.2	542.5	604.1
Flowers	US\$ million	193.5	140.0	238.8

As the table shows, the total volume of agricultural exports has increased only slightly over the past ten years while individual product groups showed contradictory developments. Citrus fruit has lost its dominant position as citrus exports decreased by 59%. The export of cotton and melons also is decreasing, while the export of vegetables and potatoes is growing rapidly. The export of avocados, other fruits and flowers is fluctuating.

Official export statistics do not reveal how much of the Israeli agricultural export originates from the Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel. Statistics of the areas planted with different crops in the settlement areas and in Israel do provide an indication, however (figures for 2003).⁸

Table 2 Crop acreages in Israel and the Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel (2003)			
Product group / Region	Israel (ha)	West Bank & Gaza (ha)	WB & Gaza as % of total
Field crops (maize, corn)	135,480	3,670	2.6%
Vegetables, potatoes & melons	67,060	3,620	5.1%
Citrus plantations	19,580	680	3.4%
Other plantations	43,550	2,280	5.0%
Total	265,670	10,250	3.7%

As the table shows, the agricultural area developed in the settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip accounts for 3.7% of the total area in Israel plus the settlements. This is an indication of the statistical chance that wrongly labelled fruit and vegetable exports from Israel consist of settlement products. The percentages of vegetables, potatoes & melons and for other plantations (grapes, dates) are higher, above 5%. The recent dismantling of the settlements in the Gaza Strip has probably not changed these figures significantly, as the agricultural area in Gaza settlements was much smaller than the agricultural area in West Bank settlements.

According to one report in a trade magazine, over 200 agricultural companies which were operating in the settlements in the Gaza Strip are planning to return to agricultural production following the establishment of new settlements in the northern and western Negev (outside the territories occupied by Israel).⁹

1.4 Industry

Many industries are active in the Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel, especially in the large industrial zones such as Atarot, Edomim and Barkan in the West Bank and Katzrin on the Golan Heights. The following industries have a strong presence:¹⁰

- plastic products
- metal products
- textiles
- carpets
- cosmetics
- food products
- wine

No figures are available on the exports of these industries to the European Union.

Chapter 2 Dutch imports from territories occupied by Israel

2.1 Statistics

The Netherlands is Israel's third largest trading partner in the world. Figures on the total Dutch imports from Israel (plus the occupied territories) in the past four years are provided in the following table:¹¹

Year	Imports (€ million)
2001	827,5
2002	870,0
2003	902,5
2004	908,2

For the year 2004 the following figure gives an overview of Dutch imports from Israel (plus the occupied territories) by major product categories:¹²

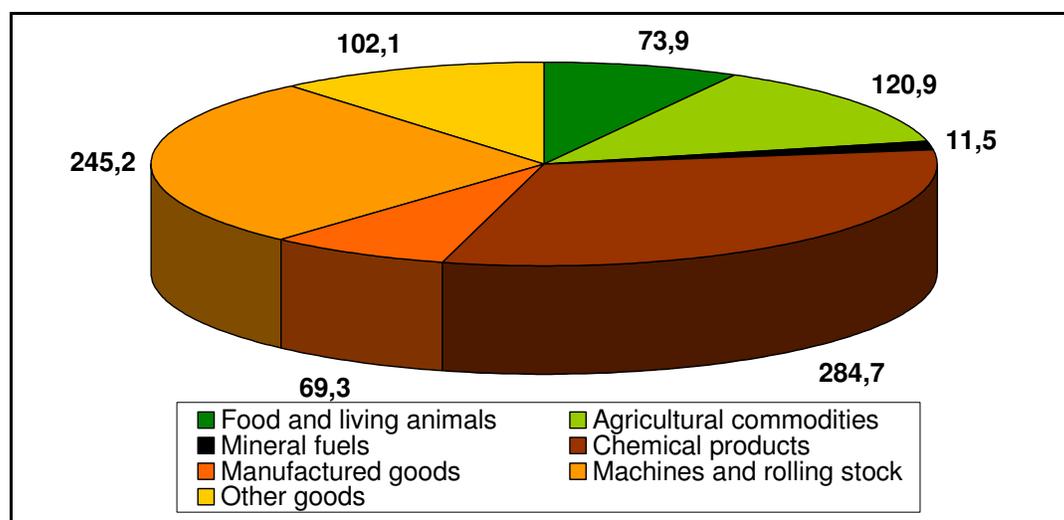


Figure 3. Dutch imports from Israel and the occupied territories in 2004 (in € million)

As Figure 3 shows, the most important Dutch imports from Israel (plus the occupied territories) are agricultural products (food and living animals plus commodities), chemicals and machines and rolling stock.

With regard to Dutch agricultural imports from Israel (plus the occupied territories), more details are provided in the following table.¹³

Table 4 Dutch agricultural imports from Israel (plus the occupied territories) in € 1.000

	2002	2003	2004
Capsicum	20.034	19.800	31.722
Leeks	1.892	2.098	2.238
Tomatoes	4.390	4.647	4.256
Other vegetables	2.267	2.334	2.486
Vegetables (total)	28.583	28.879	40.702
Grapefruits	2.037	2.024	902
Tangerines	75	275	340
Other citrus fruit	560	642	632
Strawberries	2.006	2.415	4.070
Grapes	1.617	461	793
Melons	2.244	1.513	1.047
Avocados	4.131	2.944	3.299
Lychees and others	630	232	519
Mangos and guavas	716	1.627	394
Other fresh fruit	4.717	3.983	4.653
Frozen fruit	579	355	729
Dates	1.725	1.903	1.969
Other dried fruit	0	14	23
Citrus fruit conserves	934	1.244	1.023
Other fruit conserves	557	93	106
Grapefruit juice	14.460	10.580	8.918
Orange juice	4.337	3.757	3.241
Other fruit juices	478	765	463
Fruit (total)	41.803	34.827	33.121
Daffodil bulbs	926	143	540
Other bulbs	1.175	1.139	699
Coronation	2.148	1.528	711
Roses	12.793	8.968	6.831
Other cut flowers	68.379	60.141	53.168
Foliage and moss	13.219	15.480	15.825
Nursery plants	6.971	8.116	8.372
Other plants	412	318	701
Flowers & plants (total)	106.023	95.833	86.847
Nuts	227	188	169
Spices and herbs	3.574	4.805	6.037
Total agricultural imports	180.210	164.532	166.876

As Table 4 shows, more than half of the Dutch agricultural imports from Israel (plus the occupied territories) consist of flowers and plants. Cut flowers are the most important import category, followed by capsicum. Other important categories are strawberries and avocados, herbs and spices, grapefruit juice and tomatoes.

Hidden in these statistics on trading relationships between the Netherlands and Israel (plus the occupied territories) are the trading relationships between Dutch companies and companies active in the Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel. How many Dutch companies have trading relationships with companies active in the Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel and how important these trading relationships are in financial terms, is difficult to assess.

In November 2005 the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs responded to Dutch parliamentary questions by stating that "I am not aware of any Dutch companies that have trade relations with companies located in settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories".¹⁴ These trade relations, however, do exist. The following paragraphs provide a large number of cases, but the list is probably not exhaustive.

2.2 Fruit and vegetables

The following Israeli agricultural companies and organizations are probably involved in exporting fruit and vegetables from Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel to the Netherlands:

- **Agrexco Agricultural Export Company**

121 Ha'hashmonaim Street
P.O. Box 20601
Tel Aviv 61206
Israel
Telephone: +972-3-5630900
Fax: +972-3-563-0988
E-mail: info@agrexco.com
Website: www.agrexco.com

Agrexco Agricultural Export Company Ltd. is Israel's largest exporter of fresh agricultural produce. Agrexco markets over 330,000 tons per year, of which 49% are vegetables, 24% flowers, 11% fruits, 6% citrus fruit, 6% plants and propagation materials, and 4% general products and processed food. Agrexco is owned by the Israeli government (50%), Israeli growers represented by the country's production and marketing boards (25%), and the Tnuva cooperative (25%). Annual sales amounted to € 540 million in 2004, mostly consisting of exports to the EU.

Most products are exported under the Carmel brand name. Agrexco also exports citrus fruit under the Jaffa brand name, but other companies also export citrus under this same brand name (see Citrus Marketing Board below). In the past Agrexco had an official monopoly position for all agricultural exports, but this monopoly was abolished in the 1990s. It exports over 100 products, with some 4.000 farmers supplying products under contract.¹⁵

Agrexco also is the main exporter of agricultural products (grapes, dates, grapefruits and other citrus fruits, herbs, vegetables, melons and flowers) from Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank. These products are mostly sold under the Carmel brand.¹⁶ Citrus fruit from the settlements is sold under the Jaffa brand name and dates are sold under the Jordan Plains brand name (see Jordan Plains Development Corporation below).

Agrexco claims that only 1-2% of its sales originates from settlements in territories occupied by Israel. This would equal € 5-10 million per year.¹⁷

In August 2005 Agrexco also signed an export agreement with the Palestinian company PalTrade, which took over the greenhouses of the Israeli settlers in the Gaza Strip after the settlements there were dismantled. The greenhouses cover an area of 240 hectares and employ 3,800 workers. PalTrade is a private company set up by leading Palestinian businessmen under the auspices of the Palestinian Finance Ministry in order to support the establishment of new private companies. As Gaza has no port, all exports have to be shipped via Israel.¹⁸

In January 2006, a court case took place at Uxbridge Magistrates Court in the United Kingdom against seven demonstrators who had participated in a blockade of the British office of Agrexco in Hayes in November 2004. During the court case the British manager of Agrexco, Amos Orr, testified that Agrexco is responsible for marketing 60-70% of the agricultural produce grown in Israeli settlements in the occupied territories. These settlement products account for about 5% of Agrexco's total turnover.¹⁹

Agrexco thus exports agricultural produce from Israel, from Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel and from Palestinian agricultural companies. Whether or not exports are properly labelled now is uncertain.

Agrexco has a branch office in the Netherlands, which is responsible for the administrative handling of Agrexco's fruit and vegetable exports to the Benelux and Scandinavian countries:

Agrexco Agricultural Export Company Ltd.
De Brauwweg 62
3125 AE Schiedam
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)10-2984000
Fax: +31-(0)10-29840003
Website: www.agrexco.nl

Agrexco's vegetables and fruit are transported to the Netherlands in three different ways:²⁰

- By boat to Marseille (France) and then by truck to the Netherlands;
- By airplane to Liege (Belgium) and then by truck to the Netherlands;
- By airplane to Schiphol airport (Netherlands).

From the Netherlands, Agrexco distributes fruit and vegetables to Belgium, Luxemburg and the Scandinavian countries. In the Netherlands, Agrexco works with four importers which distribute fruit and vegetables to wholesalers, groceries and supermarkets. One of them is:²¹

Aartsenfruit B.V.
Heilaar-Noordweg 9
4814 RR Breda
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)76-5248100
Fax: +31-(0)76-5221247
E-mail: info@aartsenfruit.nl
Website: www.aartsenfruit.nl

Agrexco exports fruits and vegetables from the occupied West Bank. The company has a Dutch branch office, which distributes to the Benelux and the Scandinavian countries and works with the Dutch importer Aartsenfruit.

- **Arava Export Growers**

P.O. Box 238
Bnei Atarot 60991
Israel
Telephone: +972-3-9734141
Fax: +972-3-9734114
E-mail: marketing@arv.co.il
Website: www.arv.co.il

Arava Export Growers Ltd. is the third largest agricultural export company in Israel, with annual sales of about NIS 300 million (€ 55 million). It is 50% owned by B. Gaon Holdings and 50% by farmers in the Arava region of Israel.²²

The company exports (organic) peppers, tomatoes, melons, grapes, mangos, herbs, cucumbers, aubergines, watermelons and cut flowers, all under the Arava brand name. In 2000/2001, Arava Export Growers Ltd. exported 18,000 tons of fresh produce from more than 200 growers from various regions of Israel.²³

Part of the products exported by Arava originates from Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank.²⁴

Arava Export Growers has two marketing subsidiaries in the Netherlands: Arava Holland B.V. and Faran B.V. Together, the two companies have two offices in the Netherlands:

Klappolder 92 -96
2665 LP Bleiswijk
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31- (0)10-5299475

Douglassingel 25
P.O. Box 75559
1119 MC Schiphol - Rijk
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)20-4467979
Fax: +31-(0)20-6536033

Arava Export Growers exports fruits and vegetables from the occupied West Bank. The company has two Dutch marketing subsidiaries.

- **Citrus Marketing Board**

P.O. Box 54
Beit Dagan 50280
Israel
Telephone: +972-3-9595654
Fax: +972-3-9501495
E-mail: info@jaffa.co.il
Website: www.jaffa.co.il

The Citrus Marketing Board (CMB) is a governmental organization regulating Israel's citrus exports. The CMB does not export citrus fruit itself, but has licensed about 30 exporters to do so. All these licensed exporters may use the Jaffa brand name, which is derived from the Israeli port where most citrus exports are shipped from.²⁵

The Jaffa brand name therefore does not belong to a specific citrus grower. It is used on all citrus exports from Israel, on exports from the Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel and even on citrus fruit from South Africa. As the Jaffa brand name has global recognition, the CMB licensed South African citrus exporters to use this brand name in 2002. The CMB also started negotiations with exporters from South America and Australia on the use of this brand name.²⁶ After a complaint was filed against this policy, the Israel Patent Office decided in January 2005 that the CMB should lose the exclusive right on the brand name as it had misused it. The CMB appealed against this decision.²⁷

By far the largest exporter licensed by the CMB is Mehadrin-Tnuport Export Company, but no evidence has been found that this company is exporting citrus fruit from Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel. The second-largest exporter is Agrexco Agricultural Export Company (see above), which is known to export citrus fruit from Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel.

A Dutch company related to the Citrus Marketing Board is Friesche Vlag, part of Friesland Foods. In November 2000 the CMB signed an agreement with Friesche Vlag, for the use of the Jaffa brand name in yoghurts containing oranges from Israel. The new yoghurts were marketed in the Netherlands from January 2001. The deal gained the CMB tens of thousands of dollars.²⁸

Friesland Foods
Blankenstein 142
P.O. Box 124
7940 AC Meppel
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)522-276276
Fax: 0522-276444
Website: www.frieslandfoods.nl

<p>The Citrus Marketing Board grants export licences and the Jaffa brand name to citrus exporters from the occupied West Bank. The CMB has a Dutch trading partner: Friesland Foods.</p>

- **Hadiklaim - Israel Date Growers' Cooperative**

6 Harutz Street
Tel Aviv 67060
Israel
Telephone: +972-3-6389555
Fax: +972-3-6885999
Website: www.hadiklaim.com

Hadiklaim - Israel Date Growers' Cooperative Ltd. exports dates from Israel and from the occupied territories, especially Israeli settlements in the Jordan Valley. The company has three brand names - Jordan River, Jordan River Bio-Top and King Solomon - but also sells under the private labels of supermarket chains.²⁹
Hadiklaim's marketing is handled by Almog Tradex Ltd.³⁰

A Dutch wholesaler selling Jordan River dates in the Netherlands is:³¹

Langfruit B.V.
Venrayseweg 130 A, Venlo
P.O. Box 8526
5970 AA Grubbenvorst
Telephone: +31-(0)77-3236666
Fax: +31-(0)77-3236660
E-mail: info@langfruit.nl
Website: www.langfruit.nl

Hadiklaim - Israel Date Growers' Cooperative exports dates from the occupied West Bank. Langfruit is selling these dates in the Netherlands.

- **Jordan Plains Development Corporation**

M.P. Arubot Hayarden
10945 Mesua
Israel
Telephone: +972-2-9946658
Fax: +972-2-9942770

The Jordan Plains Development Corporation Ltd. produces Medjoul dates in Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank. These dates are exported to the Netherlands and other countries under the Jordan Plains brand name. The export is the responsibility of Agrexco Agricultural Export Company. In October 2002 the French customs charged a 7% duty to Agrexco for Jordan Plains dates exported to France via the port of Marseilles, as the dates originate from the Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel.³²
A Dutch wholesaler selling Jordan Plains dates in the Netherlands is:³³

Aartsenfruit B.V.
Heilaar-Noordweg 9
4814 RR Breda
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)76-5248100
Fax: +31-(0)76-5221247
E-mail: info@aartsenfruit.nl
Website: www.aartsenfruit.nl

Jordan Plains Development Corporation exports dates from the occupied West Bank. Aartsenfruit is selling these dates in the Netherlands.

2.3 Other food products

The following Israeli food companies are probably involved in exporting to the Netherlands food products from Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel:

- **Adanim Tea**

P.O. Box 38
Beit Lehem Haglilit 36007
Israel
Telephone: +972-4-9534603
Fax: +972-4-9534683
E-mail: ariel@adanim-tea.co.il
Website: www.adanim-tea.co.il

Adanim Tea Co. produces organically grown herbal teas. The office of the company is located in Israel itself, but the company's production facility is located in Ofra, an Israeli settlement in the occupied West Bank.³⁴

Adanim teas are sold in the Netherlands by:

Israël Producten Centrum
Patroonstraat 1
P.O. Box 1046
3860 BA Nijkerk
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)33-2458814
Fax: +31-(0)33-2460412
E-mail: ipc.nijkerk@worldonline.nl
Website: www.ipc-nijkerk.nl

Adanim Tea exports herbal teas from the occupied West Bank. These products are sold in the Netherlands by Israël Producten Centrum.

- **Amnon & Tamar**

16 Kalanit Street
Alfe-Menashe 44851
Israel
Telephone: +972-9-7925657

Fax: +972-9-7926682
E-mail: info@amnon-tamar.com
Website: www.herb-seasoning.com

Amnon & Tamar Ltd. produces herbal seasonings which are sold under the Pyramid brand name. The factory of the company is located in Israel itself, but its corporate office is located in the Israeli settlement Alfe-Menashe in the occupied West Bank. It is not clear where the herbs are being grown.³⁵

Pyramid herbal seasonings are sold in the Netherlands by:

Israël Producten Centrum
Patroonstraat 1
P.O. Box 1046
3860 BA Nijkerk
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)33-2458814
Fax: +31-(0)33-2460412
E-mail: pietervanoordt@worldonline.nl
Website: www.ipc-nijkerk.nl

Amnon & Tamar exports herbal seasonings from the occupied West Bank. These products are sold in the Netherlands by Israël Producten Centrum.

- **Oppenheimer Production & Marketing**

13 Mifalot Street
Atarot I.Z.
Jerusalem 91273
Israel
Telephone: +972-2-6566691
Fax: +972-2-6566698

Oppenheimer Production & Marketing Ltd. is a confectionery producer located in the Atarot industrial zone in the occupied West Bank. Oppenheimer sells its goods to the commercial, industrial and private label markets.³⁶

Oppenheimer confectionery is sold in the Netherlands by:³⁷

Mouwes Kosher Delicatessenbedrijf B.V.
Kastelenstraat 261
1082 EG Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)20-6610180
Fax: +31-(0)20-6418345
E-mail: info@mouwes.nl
Website: www.mouwes.nl

Oppenheimer Production & Marketing exports chocolates and confectionery from the occupied West Bank. Mouwes Kosher Delicatessenbedrijf is selling these products in the Netherlands.

2.4 Flowers

About 90% of the Israeli flower export is transported to the flower auctions in the Netherlands, from where these flowers are sold and distributed to the rest of the world. The value of Israel's flower export to the Netherlands amounted to around € 150 million in 2004.³⁸ Since the autumn of 1997, new noise level regulations at Schiphol airport have forced Israeli growers to transport their produce through other airports. Most Israeli flowers are now flown in at night to Liege (Belgium) by the Israeli airlines Cargo Air Lines (CAL) and El Al Israel Airlines. Sometimes other airports in the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg are used as well. From the airports the flowers are transported by truck to the Dutch flower auctions.³⁹ Cargo Air Lines flies ten times per week to Liege, where it has its main logistical centre, and twice a week to Luxembourg.⁴⁰

Flowers grown in the Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel are exported as "Made in Israel", together with flowers grown in Israel itself. What percentage of Israeli flower exports originates from the Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel is unknown. According to one source, roses, carnations and gypsophil are grown in large quantities in the occupied West Bank.⁴¹ Carnations were a major product of settlements in the occupied Gaza Strip too. Just for Valentine's Day alone Israeli flower growers in the occupied Gaza Strip aimed to export 3 million carnations to Europe in the second week of February 2005.⁴² But since then, the settlements in the Gaza Strip have been dismantled and it is unclear if these carnation growers have resettled elsewhere in the territories occupied by Israel.

The most important flower export company in Israel is:

- **Agrexco Agricultural Export Company**

121 Hahashmonaim Street
Tel Aviv 67133
Israel
Telephone: +972-3-5630888
Fax: +972-3-563-0988
E-mail: info@agrexco.com
Website: www.agrexco.com

Agrexco Agricultural Export Company Ltd. (see also paragraph 2.2) is Israel's largest flower exporter. For a long time Agrexco had a monopoly on the export of flowers in cooperation with the Israel Flower Board, but this monopoly was abolished in 1999. Since then any organization representing a significant turnover in the flower sector (about € 1 million per year) is allowed to start exporting independently.⁴³

According to various sources Agrexco plays an important role in exporting flowers grown in the Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel as "Made in Israel", together with flowers grown in Israel itself.⁴⁴ It is not clear whether Agrexco handles all flower exports from the Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel, or whether other companies are involved as well.

Agrexco's flower imports in the Netherlands are handled by its office at the VBA:

Agrexco Agricultural Export Company Ltd.
Legmeerdijk 313
1431 GB Aalsmeer
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)297-329423
Fax: +31-(0)297-322027

Agrexco Agricultural Export Company exports flowers from the occupied West Bank. The company has a Dutch marketing office.

2.5 Wine

Israel's wine exports totalled US\$ 13.2 million in 2004, 15% more than in 2003. Israel exports wine to 57 countries. In May 2005 the Israeli government announced that US\$ 1 million dollar will be invested in a plan to double Israeli wine exports in the next five years. The plan is aimed at branding Israeli wine as high-quality and with a long tradition. The plan should lead to expansion of vineyards, improve Israel's standing, and contribute to incoming tourism.⁴⁵ Most of the major wineries in Israel have one or more vineyards located in the occupied West Bank or on the occupied Golan Heights. Many of these wineries are already exporting to the Netherlands. Details are provided below:

- **Barkan Wine Cellars**

Kibbutz Hulda
P.O. Box 146
Doar Na Sorek 76842
Israel
Telephone: +972-8-9355858
Fax: +972-8-9355859
E-mail: Martha-export@barkan-winery.co.il
Website: www.barkan-winery.co.il

Barkan Wine Cellars is one of the leading wine producers in Israel, with a 16% share of the domestic market. The company has recently been taken over by Tempo Beer Industries, Israel's biggest brewery. The winery of Barkan Wine Cellars is located in Kibbutz Hulda. The grapes come from vineyards in Negev, Dan, Samson, Jerusalem Hills and the Galilee.⁴⁶

Barkan also has a production facility in Barkan industrial zone in the occupied West Bank.⁴⁷

Barkan sells its wines under the brand names Barkan, Superieur and Monfort. "Barkan Wine Cellars have also received a special licence from the Ministry of Defence to supply wine to the Israeli Defence Force."⁴⁸

Barkan and Monfort wines are sold in the Netherlands by:⁴⁹

Israël Producten Centrum
Patroonstraat 1
P.O. Box 1046
3860 BA Nijkerk
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)33-2458814
Fax: +31-(0)33-2460412
E-mail: ipc.nijkerk@worldonline.nl
Website: www.ipc-nijkerk.nl

One type of Barkan white wine is sold by:⁵⁰

Hema Food & Horeca
Frankemaheerd 2
1102 AN Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)20-3114392
Fax: +31-(0)20-3114023
E-mail: cisca.breedijk@hema.nl
Website: www.hema.nl

Hema is a chain of department stores with 280 outlets in the Netherlands. It is part of the large retail group Vendex KBB.⁵¹

Barkan Wine Cellars exports wines from the occupied West Bank. Its wines are sold in the Netherlands by Israël Producten Centrum and Hema.

- **Carmel Winery**

P.O. Box 2
25 Hacarmel Street
Rishon Le Zion 75100
Israel
Telephone: +972-3-9488851
Fax: +972-3-9663129
E-mail: export@carmelwines.co.il
Website: www.carmelwines.co.il

With a 50% market share Carmel Winery is the largest wine producer in Israel. It is also the oldest, as it was established in 1882 by Baron Edmond de Rothschild, the owner of the famous Chateau Lafite in the Bordeaux region. At present the company realizes US\$ 65 million in annual sales, of which US\$ 5 million is derived from exports to 40 countries. Carmel Winery is also the largest Israeli wine exporter, selling under the Carmel and Grand Carmel brand names.⁵²

Most of Carmel's vineyards and all its wineries are located in Israel, but the company has also established vineyards on the central and northern Golan Heights. The grapes from these vineyards are processed in Ramat Dalton in Upper Galilee.⁵³ The main vineyard of Carmel in this occupied territory is Sha'al - high up on the northern Golan Heights. Carmel produces a so-called single vineyard wine from this vineyard, which probably carries the name Sha'al on the label.⁵⁴

The importer for Carmel Winery in the Netherlands is:⁵⁵

Oud Reuchlin & Boelen BV
Röntgenlaan 21
2719 DX Zoetermeer
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)79-3634800
Fax: +31-(0)79-3305403
E-mail: dick.van.baren@oudreuchlinboelen.nl
Website: www.oudreuchlinboelen.nl

The website of the importer shows dozens of sales addresses, but it is not known if all these sell Carmel wines.⁵⁶

Carmel Winery exports wines from the occupied Golan Heights. Its Dutch importer is Oud Reuchlin & Boelen.

- **Golan Heights Winery**

P.O. Box 183
12900 Katzrin
Israel
Telephone: +972-4-6968420
Fax: +972-4-6962220
E-mail: ghwinery@golanwines.co.il
Website: www.golanwines.co.il

Golan Heights Winery Ltd. was established in 1983 and has now become the second largest wine producer in Israel. Its winery is located in Katzrin, a settlement on the Golan Heights. The vineyards are located in various places on the Golan Heights (Odem, Ortal, El Rom, Aloney Habashan, Gshur, Yonatan, Ein Zivan, Kidmat Tzvi, Ramot Naftali, Ramat Magshimim, Sha'al and Tel Fares).

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.⁵⁷

In the recent past Golan and Yarden wines were sold in the Netherlands by Gall & Gall, a subsidiary of Ahold. This trading relationship was however ended in 2004.⁵⁸

Golan and Yarden wines are sold in the Netherlands by.⁵⁹

Israël Producten Centrum
Patroonstraat 1
P.O. Box 1046
3860 BA Nijkerk
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)33-2458814
Fax: +31-(0)33-2460412
E-mail: ipc.nijkerk@worldonline.nl
Website: www.ipc-nijkerk.nl

Golan Heights Winery exports wines from the occupied Golan Heights. Its wines are sold in the Netherlands by Israël Producten Centrum.

- **Tishbi Estate Winery**

Tishbi
Israel
Telephone: +972-4-6380434/5
Fax: +972-4-6380223
E-mail: tishbi_w@netvision.net.il
Website: www.tishbi.com

Tishbi Estate Winery is a family-owned medium-sized winery in Zichron Yaakov. One of the company's vineyards is located in Gush Etzion, a block of settlements in the occupied West Bank. The wines are sold under the Jonathan Tishbi and Tishbi brand names.⁶⁰

The Dutch importer of Tishbi wines is:⁶¹

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

Figure 4. Tishbi Estate vineyards⁶²

Tishbi Estate Winery exports wines from the occupied West Bank. Its Dutch importer is Karo Kado.

2.6 Other beverages

The following Israeli beverage companies are possibly involved in exporting beverages from Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel to the Netherlands:

- **Soda-Club**

Gilboa Street
P.O. Box 280
70100 Ben-Gurion Airport
Israel
Telephone: +972-3-9762323
Fax: +972-3-9736660
Website: www.sodaclub.com

Soda-Club Enterprises N.V. is a major Israeli soft drinks company, with legal headquarters in the Netherlands Antilles (see paragraph 3.1). Its carbonated soft drinks have to be prepared at home or in the office, with a carbonate device and various syrup mixes. The company claims to control 80% of this specific world market. The company has annual sales of about US\$ 150 million (€ 120 million) and 800 employees world-wide. Soda-Club is owned by the English businessman Peter Wiseburgh, who started the company in Israel in the seventies.⁶³

Since July 1996 the main production plant of the company has been located in Ma'aleh Adumim, an Israeli settlement in the occupied West Bank, employing 300 people.⁶⁴ But in May 2003 the company announced it would relocate some operations to Ashkelon in Israel. The company did this, as the EU does not recognize exports from beyond the *Green Line* as Israeli and seeks to levy full import taxes on them (see paragraph 1.2). The new factory in Ashkelon was opened in July 2003.⁶⁵

According to the Mattin Group, a voluntary human rights-based partnership in Palestine, the carbonated devices are still produced in Ma'aleh Adumim. Only the production of syrup mixes was moved to the new plant in Ashkelon.⁶⁶

Soda-Club sells its carbonating devices and syrup mixes in the Netherlands via its subsidiary:

Soda-Club International B.V.
Minervum 7334
P.O. Box 5668
4801 EB Breda
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)76-5444222
Fax: +31-(0)76-5411960
E-mail: info@sodaclub.nl
Website: www.sodaclub.nl

This subsidiary has 51 employees and is responsible for marketing, sales and distribution in the Benelux. The company is a sponsor of the local football club NAC in Breda. Its carbonating devices are sold in the Netherlands by various retail chains.⁶⁷

Soda-Club exports carbonating devices from the occupied West Bank. The company has a Dutch marketing subsidiary and sells to major retail chains.

2.7 Cosmetics

The following Israeli cosmetics companies export cosmetics and beauty care products from Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel to the Netherlands:

- **Dead Sea Laboratories**

M.P. Dead Sea 86983
Israel
Telephone: +972-3-5571111
Fax: +972-3-5581424
Website: www.ahava.co.il

Dead Sea Laboratories Ltd. was established in 1988 and produces personal care products, which are sold under the Ahava brand name.⁶⁸ The company is located in the Mitzpe Shalem settlement in the West Bank. Annual turnover is around US\$ 16 million, of which 30% are exports. The company is owned by B. Gaon Holdings Ltd. and three Kibutzim. B. Gaon Holdings Ltd. is one of the largest holding companies in Israel, managed by Benjamin Gaon (former president of Koor Industries).⁶⁹ Ahava products are sold in the Netherlands. Importers/representatives in the Netherlands are:⁷⁰

Yentl Cosmetica B.V.
Vredenburg 8
2036 HA Haarlem
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)23-5352178
E-mail: c.van.schaik@ahavanederland.nl
Website: www.ahavanederland.nl

Yoffi B.V.
Kerkstraat 17
5575 AZ Luyksgestel
The Netherlands
Tel: +31-(0)497-544080
Fax: +31-(0)497-544088
E-mail: info@yoffi.nl

Dead Sea Laboratories exports beauty care products from the occupied West Bank. Its Dutch importers are Yentl Cosmetica and Yoffi.

- **Intercosma Ltd.**

64 Hamada Street, Northern Industrial Zone
77520 Ashdod
Israel
Telephone: +972-8-8636400
Fax: +972-8-8531654
Website: www.belmon.co.il

Intercosma is a leading Israeli importer and producer of cosmetics and beauty care products.⁷¹ The company has a production facility in the Atarot industrial zone in the occupied West Bank.⁷²

Industrial Zone Atarot
Jerusalem 1323
Israel
Telephone: +972-2-5833131
Fax: +972-2-5859324

One of the main subsidiaries of Intercosma is Belmon-Nurit, which produces beauty care products under the brand names Mineral Care, Mineral Care SPA and Time Control. These beauty care products are produced with Dead Sea minerals.⁷³ If Belmon-Nurit has a production facility near the Dead Sea in the occupied West Bank, is unknown.

Mineral Care and Time Control beauty care products are sold in the Netherlands by:⁷⁴

Israël Producten Centrum
Patroonstraat 1
P.O. Box 1046
3860 BA Nijkerk
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)33-2458814
Fax: +31-(0)33-2460412
E-mail: ipc.nijkerk@worldonline.nl
Website: www.mineralcare.nl

Intercosma exports cosmetics and beauty care products, partly from the occupied West Bank. These products are sold in the Netherlands by Israël Producten Centrum.

2.8 Plastic products

The following Israeli companies export plastic products from Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel to the Netherlands:

- **Keter Plastic**

P.O. Box 12558
Herzlia 46766
Israel
Telephone: +972-9-9591212
Fax: +972-9-9586142
E-mail: keter@keter.co.il
Website: www.keter.co.il

The Israeli company Keter Plastic is a large manufacturer of plastic indoor and garden furniture, shelving systems, tool boxes and storage products for the do-it-yourself market, household products and kitchen utensils, polyurethane insulated camping products, refuse containers, electronic bathroom and kitchen scales, bathroom accessories and toilet seats, juvenile products and a complete line of sanitary fittings.⁷⁵

Keter Plastic is owned by the Israeli businessman Sami Sagol and his family. In 2004, sales for the Keter group, including affiliates, reached US\$ 700 million (€ 560 million), 90% of which was overseas sales, while turnover for 2005 is expected to surpass US\$ 900 million (US\$ 720 million).

The Keter Group currently manufactures its products in Israel, Europe and the USA in 24 factories with 2,500 employees. The Keter Group and its subsidiaries operate sales offices and representatives in 80 countries, and Keter Israel operates its own chain of retail stores.⁷⁶

Figure 5. Location of Keter Plastic plants⁷⁷

Keter Plastic and its subsidiaries (one of which is named Lipski) operate six plants in Israel, of which two are located in the occupied West Bank: the Keter Plastic plant in the Barkan Industrial Zone and the Lipski plant in Oranit.⁷⁸

Keter Plastic most probably is now the largest supplier of plastic products to the European market, after the recent acquisitions of Allibert (France) and Curver (Netherlands). Allibert runs six production facilities in France and Belgium producing bathroom accessories, household storage containers, custom thermoformed products and garden furniture. The company has annual sales of US\$ 130 million and was acquired in January 2004.⁷⁹ The Dutch company Curver produces plastic home and food storage, cleaning, closet organization, laundry, bathroom and refuse removal products. The company runs plants in Poland and Hungary and has annual sales of US\$ 140 million. Curver was acquired in June 2005, not by Keter Plastic itself but by the Dutch holding company Jardin International Holding. This holding company is owned by the Israeli Sagol family, which also owns Keter Plastic.⁸⁰

Two companies import Keter products from Israel into the Netherlands. One is a subsidiary of Keter, the other is an independent importer. Both companies might be importing products produced in the occupied West Bank:

- Keter Europe Gardening B.V.
Ericssonstraat 17
P.O. Box 224
5120 AE Rijen
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)161-228301
Fax: 31-161-228322
Website: www.outstanding-keter.com

Keter Europe Gardening is a Dutch subsidiary of OutStanding Solutions Ltd. This is an Israeli subsidiary of Keter Plastic, producing plastic storage buildings, sheds and storage boxes. Outstanding Solutions operates three manufacturing facilities and a design and development center in Israel. These products are sold in the Netherlands by large retail chains.⁸¹

- Keterim B.V.
Jac. Dutilhweg 205
3065 KA Rotterdam
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)10-2023377
Fax: +31-(0)10-2021410
E-mail: info@keter.nl
Website: www.keter.nl

Keterim B.V. is a Dutch-owned importer of plastic storage buildings, sheds and storage boxes produced by Keter Plastic in Israel.⁸²

Keter Plastic exports various plastic storage products from the occupied West Bank. The company has a Dutch marketing subsidiary and a Dutch importer: Keterim.

- **Mapal Plastic Products**

Mevo Hamma
Israel
Telephone: +972-4-6764555
Fax: +972-4-6764563
E-mail: mapal@flic.co.il

Mapal Plastic Products Ltd. specializes in manufacturing polypropylene products: sheets, films and finished products for school, office and home. The factory, located in an Israeli settlement on the occupied Golan Heights, has 100 employees. Mapal Plastic Products exports 85% of its products to most of the major countries of the world. Mapal manufactures a variety of school products, including composition notebooks, graphic notebooks, and pencil cases, under the brand name Flic.⁸³

In July 2005 the company established a subsidiary in the Netherlands, which will import products for the European packaging industry, including polypropylene products, printing foil and agricultural foil.⁸⁴

Mapal Europe B.V.
Hessenbergweg 111
1101 BS Amsterdam Zuidoost
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)20-5774000

Mapal Plastic Products exports plastic products and foils from the occupied Golan Heights. The company has a Dutch marketing subsidiary.

- **Tip Top Toys**

15 Mendes Street
Ramat Gan 52653
Israel
Telephone: +972-3-9364121
Fax: +972-3-5352747
Website: www.interstar.co.il

Tip Top Toys Star (91) Ltd. is an Israeli producer of high quality educational toys. The company was established in 1991 by Uri Barazani. Its main product line is the plastic Interstar construction system.⁸⁵
The factory of Tip Top Toys is located in the Barkan Industrial Zone in the occupied West Bank.⁸⁶

Interstar toys are sold in the Netherlands by:

Speelgoed International B.V.
Berenkoog 11
1822 BH Alkmaar
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)72-5337131
Fax: +31-(0)72-5340506
Website: www.speelgoedinternational.nl

Tip Top Toys exports plastic toys from the occupied West Bank. These toys are sold in the Netherlands by Speelgoed International.

2.9 Metal products

The following Israeli companies export metal products from Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel to the Netherlands:

- **A.R.I. Flow Control Accessories**

Kibbutz Kfar Charuv
12932 Israel
Telephone: +972-4-6761800
Fax: +972-4-6763402
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. 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 is located in the Israeli settlement Kibbutz Kfar Charuv on the occupied Golan Heights.⁸⁷

A.R.I. Flow Control Accessories exports water supply and sewage products to the Netherlands via importer:⁸⁸

AVK Nederland B.V.
Radeweg 12
P.O. Box 73
8170 AB Vaassen
The Netherlands
Telephone: 31-(0)578-574490
Fax: +31-(0)578-574459
E-mail: avknl@avk-nl.nl
Website: www.avknederland.nl

A.R.I. Flow Control Accessories exports agricultural products to the Netherlands via importer:⁸⁹

Revaho B.V.
Aartsdijkweg 22, Maasdijk
P.O. Box 299
3140 AG Maassluis
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)174-525444
Fax: +31-(0)174-510180
E-mail: info@revaho.nl
Website: www.revaho.nl

A.R.I. Flow Control Accessories exports air release and check valves from the occupied Golan Heights. The company has two Dutch importers: AVK Nederland and Revaho.

- **Israel Aircraft Industries**

Ben-Gurion International Airport 70100
Israel
Telephone: +972-3-9353111
Fax: +972-3-9358278
E-mail: corpmkg@iaai.co.il
Website: www.iaai.co.il

Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) is a large developer of military and commercial aerospace technology. Company sales over the last 5 years reached US\$ 10.8 billion. The company is active in commercial aircraft, maintenance repair and overhaul of civil aircraft, military aircraft and helicopters maintenance and upgrade, unmanned air vehicles, ISR systems, space systems, theatre defence, naval attack and defense systems, ground systems and homeland defence.⁹⁰

The Mata Division of IAI refurbishes, upgrades and customizes military and commercial helicopters. The facility also designs, integrates and manufactures electrical wire harnesses. The Mata Division is located in the Atarot Industrial Zone in the occupied West Bank. The plant employs 200 workers. The Mata Division in 2004 reportedly lost orders worth US\$ 8 million, as the U.S. Air Forces refused to give the plant orders due to its location beyond the Green Line. IAI management asked the Defence Ministry to allow the transfer of the plant to Lod, but the Israeli cabinet and Jerusalem municipality have refused the request for political reasons.⁹¹

Mata Division of Israel Aircraft Industries
P.O. Box 27160
Atarot Airport
Jerusalem 91271
Israel
Telephone: +972-2-58413501
Fax: 972-2-5341319
E-mail: ytragger@mata.iaai.co.il

Golan Industries is another division of IAI, which specializes in the design, development and manufacturing of crash survival crew seats, energy absorbing passenger seats and troop seats. The plant is located on the occupied Golan Heights.

Golan Industries Metal & Electronics Ltd.
M.P. Bnei Yehuda, Taasiya Avirit
12944 Bnei Yehuda
Israel
Telephone: +972-4-6763681
Fax: +972-4-6763685
E-mail: hkain@iaai.co.il

In March 2001 the MLM division of Israel Aircraft Industries Ltd. obtained an order for the supply of 24 "EHUD" Autonomous Air Combat Manoeuvring Instrumentation (AACMI) systems for the Royal Netherlands Air Force. The contract's value is over US\$ 9 million and IAI's share is over US\$ 7 million.⁹² The MLM division is not located in the Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel.

Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) upgrades helicopters in the occupied West Bank and produces aircraft seats on the occupied Golan Heights. Another subsidiary of IAI is exporting air combat instrumentation systems to the Royal Netherlands Air Force.

- **Mul-T-Lock**

P.O. Box 637
81104 Yavne
Israel
Telephone: +972-8-9424333
Fax: +972-8-9424609
E-mail: hanita_b@mul-t-lock
Website: www.mul-t-lock.com

Mul-T-Lock Ltd. is an Israeli producer of high-security cylinders, locks and padlocks for institutional, commercial, industrial and residential applications. The company also develops, manufactures and supplies a wide range of key cutting (bitting) machines. The company's main factory is located in the Barkan industrial zone in the occupied West Bank. Mul-T-Lock has various subsidiaries in the United States and Europe.⁹³

Mul-T-Lock employs 520 people, of whom 360 are in Israel. In 2005 Mul-T-Lock is expected to realise annual sales of NIS 270 million (€ 50 million).⁹⁴

Mul-T-Lock is owned by the Swedish company Assa Abloy, which is the world's leading manufacturer and supplier of locking solutions. In the Netherlands Assa Abloy markets Assa, Yale and Nemef locks.⁹⁵

The Dutch importer of Mul-T-Lock products is:⁹⁶

Marenco B.V.
Touwslagerij 12
4762 AT Zevenbergen
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)168-328970
Fax: +31-(0)168-335309
E-mail: info@marenco.nl
Website: www.mul-t-lock.nl

Mul-T-Lock products are sold in the Netherlands by:⁹⁷

European Locking Centre B.V.⁹⁸
Frans Bekkerstraat 85a
3082 TK Rotterdam
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)10-4297260
Fax: +31-(0)10-4280545
E-mail: verkoop@eurolocks.nl
Website: www.eurolocks.nl

Multi Trade International B.V.
Oostdam 26
4651 AW Steenberg
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)167-560053

Mul-T-Lock exports locks from the occupied West Bank. Its Dutch importer is Marengo, while European Locking Centre and Multi Trade International sell products of the company.

2.10 Other products

The following Israeli companies export other products from Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel to the Netherlands:

- **Afic**

Kibbutz Afik
12938 Israel
Telephone: +972-4-6761216
Fax: +972-4-6763240
Website: www.afic.co.il

Afic Ltd. produces printer cartridges for ink jet printers and laser print cartridges. The company is located in an Israeli settlement on the occupied Golan Heights.⁹⁹

Afic printer cartridges are sold in the Netherlands by:¹⁰⁰

Excell Benelux B.V.
Helmkruid 28
3434 CT Nieuwegein
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)30-6081763
Fax: +31-(0)30-6081764
E-mail: info@printsupplies.nl
Website: www.printsupplies.nl

Afic exports printer cartridges from the occupied Golan Heights. These printer cartridges are sold in the Netherlands by Excell Benelux.

- **Bio-Lab**

Shatner Center 3
Atarot Industrial Zone
P.O. Box 34038
Jerusalem 91340
Israel
Telephone: +972-2-5841111
Fax: +972-2-5841110
E-mail: bio_lab@netvision.net.il
Website: www.bio-lab.co.il

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. Annual sales totalled US\$ 9 million (in 1999) and 40% of the products are exported to Western Europe. Some European companies put their own labels on the products to sell them under their name.¹⁰¹

Bio-Lab has a Dutch subsidiary which markets and distributes its products in Europe.¹⁰²

Biosolve B.V.
Leenderweg 78
5555 CE Valkenswaard
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)40-2071300
Fax: +31-(0)40-2048537
Website: www.biosolve.nl

Bio-Lab exports chemicals from the occupied West Bank. The company has a Dutch marketing subsidiary.

- **Caesarea Carpets**

Barkan Industrial Zone 44820
Israel
Telephone: +972-3-9367470
Fax: +972-3-9368078
Website: www.carmelcarpets.co.il

Caesarea Carpets (97) Ltd. is a leading Israeli producer of rugs and carpets, sold under the brand name Carmel Carpets. Its production plant is located in the Barkan Industrial Zone in the occupied West Bank. Apart from selling to consumers, the company also specializes in consulting, producing and supplying carpets for hotels and office buildings. Among its clients are the international hotel chains of Sheraton, Holiday Inn, Intercontinental, Meridian and others. Caesarea Carpets claims to export to the Netherlands, but no name has been found of a Dutch importer. Probably the company sells to hotels.¹⁰³

Caesarea Carpets exports rugs and carpets from the occupied West Bank. The company exports to the Netherlands, probably to hotels.

- **Ofertex Industries**

P.O. Box 30
Industrial Zone Barkan 44820
Israel
Telephone: +972-3-9366567
Fax: +972-3-9068296
E-mail: info@ofertex.com
Website: www.ofertex.com

Ofertex Industries (1997) Ltd. manufactures cloths by non-woven stitch bonding (zigzag) technology and is owned by mr. Zvi Meir. The plant, located in the Barkan Industrial Zone in the occupied West Bank, recycles textile waste into various consumer goods from recycled material, with floor cloths, bathmats and variety of innovative cleaning cloths being the company's main products. The products are packaged and supplied to distributors and large marketing chains in various countries around the world, including the Netherlands. Probably its products are sold under the brand names of large retailers, as Ofertex is a member of the international Private Label Manufacturers Association (PLMA).¹⁰⁴ No name of a Dutch importer of Ofertex products has been found.

Ofertex Industries exports various cloths from the occupied West Bank. The company exports to the Netherlands, probably to large retailers.

2.11 Summary

In November 2005 the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs responded to Dutch parliamentary questions by stating that “I am not aware of any Dutch companies that have trade relations with companies located in settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories”.¹⁰⁵ These trading relationships, however, do exist. The following table gives an overview of companies exporting from Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel to the Netherlands, as well as their Dutch subsidiaries and importers. It should be remembered that this list is probably not exhaustive.

Exporter	Products	Occupied territory	Dutch marketing subsidiary	Dutch importer / retailer	Other trade links
Afic	Printer cartridges	Golan Heights		Excell Benelux	
Adanim Tea	Herbal teas	West Bank		Israël Producten Centrum	
Agrexco Agricultural Export Company	Fruit & vegetables	West Bank	Agrexco Schiedam	Aartsenfruit	
	Flowers	West Bank	Agrexco Aalsmeer		
Amnon & Tamar	Herbal seasonings	West Bank			
Arava	Fruit & vegetables	West Bank	Arava Holland, Faran		
A.R.I. Flow Control Accessories	Valves	Golan Heights		AVK Nederland, Revaho	
Barkan Wine Cellars	Wine	West Bank		Israël Producten Centrum, Hema	
Bio-Lab	Chemicals	West Bank	Biosolve		
Caesarea Carpets	Carpets	West Bank			
Carmel Winery	Wine	Golan Heights		Oud Reuchlin & Boelen	
Citrus Marketing Board ⁱ	Citrus fruit	West Bank			Friesland Foods
Dead Sea Laboratories	Beauty care products	West Bank		Yentl Cosmetics, Yoffi	
Golan Heights Winery	Wine	Golan Heights		Israël Producten Centrum	
Hadiklaim	Dates	West Bank		Langfruit	
Intercosma	Beauty care	West Bank		Israël Producten	

ⁱ The Citrus Marketing Board does not export itself, but facilitates exports.

Table 5 Exports from Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel to the Netherlands					
	products			Centrum	
Israel Aircraft Industries	Aircraft technology	West Bank Golan Heights			Royal Netherlands Air Force ⁱⁱ
Jordan Plains Development	Dates	West Bank		Aartsenfruit	
Keter Plastic	Plastic products	West Bank	Keter Europe Gardening	Keterim	
Mapal Plastic Products	Plastic products	Golan Heights	Mapal Europe		
Mul-T-Lock	Locks	West Bank		Marengo, European Locking Centre, Multi Trade International	
Ofertex Industries	Cloths	West Bank			
Oppenheimer	Confectionery	West Bank		Mouwes Kosher Delicatessenbedrijf	
Soda-Club	Carbonating devices	West Bank	Soda-Club International		
Tip Top Toys	Toys	West Bank		Speelgoed International	
Tishbi Estate Winery	Wine	West Bank		Karo Kado	

ⁱⁱ The Royal Dutch Air Force is supplied by an IAI-subsiary in Israel itself.

Chapter 3 Other Dutch business links with the occupied territories

3.1 Dutch companies investing in the occupied territories

American companies are the most prominent foreign investors in Israel (plus the occupied territories), followed by companies from the United Kingdom, Germany, France and Italy. During the past few year an increasing number of Asian companies, especially from Japan and South-Korea, have been investing in Israel.

The number of Dutch companies active in Israel is much more modest. The largest investors are Unilever (food and detergents), Heineken (beer), Philips (electronics) and TNT Post (postal services). Some other companies, such as KLM (airline), DHV (engineering) and Getronics (ICT) have opened a representative office, without investing in production or marketing facilities.¹⁰⁶

Over the past ten years total Dutch investments in Israel (plus the occupied territories) even show a declining tendency, as shown by the following table:¹⁰⁷

Year	Net inflow	Value at year end
1995	-33	68
1996	19	90
1997	-142	128
1998	-96	139
1999	-139	272
2000	-571	462
2001	81	621
2002	-1.110	552
2003	-766	86
2004	-257	

For most of the past ten years, the dividend payments and disinvestments were larger than the Dutch investments in Israel. For some years the value of the Dutch investments nevertheless increased, because of the profits retained in Israel. At the end of 2003, the total value of Dutch investments was only € 86 million. How much of this was invested in the settlements is not known.

In November 2005 the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs responded to Dutch parliamentary questions by stating that “I am not aware of any Dutch companies which are investing in the occupied territories”.¹⁰⁸ But research shows that at least two Dutch companies are (co-) owners of a subsidiary in an Israeli settlement in the territories occupied by Israel:

- **Soda-Club International**

Minervum 7334
P.O. Box 5668
4801 EB Breda
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)76-5444222
Fax: +31-(0)76-5411960
E-mail: info@sodaclub.nl
Website: www.sodaclub.nl

Soda-Club Enterprises N.V. is a major Israeli soft drinks company, with legal headquarters in the Netherlands Antilles. Its carbonated soft drinks have to be prepared at home or in the office, with a carbonating device and various syrup mixes. The carbonating devices are produced in Ma'aleh Adumim, an Israeli settlement in the occupied West Bank (see paragraph 2.6).

The only subsidiary of Soda-Club Enterprises is the Dutch company Soda-Club International B.V. This is the international holding company for all subsidiaries of the Soda-Club group, including the Israeli subsidiary (Soda-Club Ltd.) owning the plant in Ma'aleh Adumim.¹⁰⁹ This plant can thus be categorized as a Dutch direct investment in a settlement in territories occupied by Israel.

Soda-Club International is the Dutch holding company of Soda-Club which produces carbonating devices in the occupied West Bank.
--

- **Unilever**

Weena 455
3013 AL Rotterdam
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)10-2174000
Fax: +31-(0)10-2174843
E-mail: tanno.massar@unilever.com
Website: www.unilever.com

The Anglo-Dutch company Unilever, one of the largest food, personal care and detergents producers in the world, has been active in Israel again since 1995. In that year Unilever bought a 50% stake in the ice cream business of Strauss, one of Israel's two leading dairies. Later, this stake was raised to 51%.

In 1996 Unilever acquired the household and personal care division of the Israeli company Vitco. And in 2001 Unilever became, by the take-over of the American company Bestfoods, also the owner of a 59% share in the food division of Vitco. The other 41% is owned by the South African company Remgro.¹¹⁰

Unilever Israel, a full subsidiary of Unilever, is now Israel's fourth largest manufacturer of food and cleaning products. Annual sales amount to NIS 1.8 billion (€ 330 million). Its headquarters is located in Tel Aviv and the company has 2,500 employees in various subsidiaries spread over Israel.¹¹¹

Through the take-over of Bestfoods in 2001, Unilever acquired a 51% stake in Beigel & Beigel Ltd, located in the Barkan industrial zone in the occupied West Bank. The other 49% is owned by the Israeli Beigel family. Beigel & Beigel has 120 employees and produces pretzels, savoury biscuits and crackers.¹¹²

In July 2004 Unilever applied for an *Investment Promotion Center* grant to relocate the Beigel & Beigel plant to Arad. The company wants to leave the industrial zone to optimize its supply chain. According to the Globes newspaper the request for a grant was rejected, but Unilever is denying this. According to Unilever talks continue with the co-owner of the factory about relocation.¹¹³

Unilever owns a 51% stake in a factory in the occupied West Bank: Beigel & Beigel. The company produces pretzels and crackers and has 120 employees.

3.2 Dutch services supporting the Israeli occupation

The following Dutch companies have provided infrastructural services and products which support the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories:

- **Interwand Eibergen**

Jukkertweg 6
7151 HS Eibergen
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)545-438400
Fax: +31-(0)545-438405
E-mail: info@interwand.nl
Website: www.interwand.nl

Interwand Eibergen B.V. is the Dutch market leader in the design and production of flexible wall systems. The company supplies flexible walls to various foreign markets, including Israel.¹¹⁴

In the autumn of 2005 Interwand Eibergen secured a contract to supply glass walls for a new terminal building at the Erez border crossing between Israel and the occupied Gaza Strip. The construction of the new terminal will probably be finalized in the summer of 2006. When the new terminal will start operating is unknown.

Interwand Eibergen secured the contract, with a value of € 1.3 million, from the construction company responsible for the construction of the terminal. This construction company was hired by the Israeli Security Department. For Interwand Eibergen it is the first security-related contract in Israel.

The Israeli Security Department had the intention to build more of this type of terminals at border crossings between Israel and Palestinian territories or inside occupied territory. But since Hamas has won the Palestinian elections, these plans are put on hold.¹¹⁵

The Dutch producer of flexible wall systems Interwand Eibergen supplies glass walls for a new terminal at the Erez border crossing between Israel and the occupied Gaza Strip, which is managed by the Israeli Security Department.

- **Riwal**

Maxwellstraat 27
3316 GP Dordrecht
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)78-6181888
Fax: +31-(0)78-6181866
E-mail: pr@riwal.nl
Website: www.riwal.nl

The Dutch company Schalekamp Beheer, which operates under the Riwal brand name, is the largest private rental company in Europa in the field of *vertical transport*. The company rents aerial work platforms and mobile cranes to builders, installation companies, maintenance companies and government institutions. In the Netherlands, Denmark, Israel and Slovenia, Riwal is the market leader in aerial work platforms rental. In the field of mobile crane rental, Riwal belongs to the top-10 in the Netherlands and Israel.¹¹⁶ In the Netherlands and abroad Riwal has a rental fleet of more than 5,000 units. The company has about 300 employees, of which 170 in the Netherlands.¹¹⁷

The owners of Riwal are the Dutch brothers Dick and Jaap Schalekamp and the Israeli business man Doron Livnat.¹¹⁸ Doron Livnat is the co-owner of MDN Holding, a Dutch holding company which owns interests in Schalekamp Beheer (33.3%), Lima Holding (50%), Hovago (100%) and various joint-ventures with well-known companies in the field of *vertical transport*, such as Mammoet, Van Oord and JLG.¹¹⁹ Doron Livnat is also participating in the boards of several Dutch organisations which support Israel: the CIDI (Centrum Informatie en Documentatie Israël) and the Collectieve Israël Actie.¹²⁰

In 1997 Riwal established a joint-venture in Israel for aerial work platforms rental, together with the company Avi Cranes. Disagreements arose between the joint-venture partners, however.¹²¹ Since 2003 Lima Holding, a company owned by Dick Schalekamp and Doron Livnat, has a branch office in Israel which is involved in aerial work platforms rental. The subsidiary has 55 employees and also operates under the Riwal brand name.¹²² In 2006 Riwal started in Israel with the rental of mobile cranes as well. This raised a controversy with its former partner Avi Cranes, which saw its monopoly in this field threatened. The owner of Avi Cranes was recently charged officially to have commissioned criminals to use arson, theft, threats and molest against Riwal.¹²³

In July 2006 it became public that Riwal is renting mobile cranes to a large client in Israel which is using the cranes in building the Israeli separation wall in the occupied West Bank.¹²⁴ In July 2004 the International Court of Justice in The Hague ruled that the construction of the separation wall is in breach of international law, that it must be dismantled, and that compensation must be paid to Palestinian owners of property confiscated for its construction.¹²⁵

In reply to parliamentary questions raised by Bert Koenders, MP of the Dutch Labour Party (PvdA), minister Bot of Foreign Affairs answered in September 2006: "According to Schalekamp Beheer the Dutch company is not supplying any machines or personnel for the construction of the barrier. Based upon these facts I do not have any indication that the Dutch company is involved in the construction of the barrier."¹²⁶

With this statement minister Bot answered the question of MP Koenders about "the involvement of the Dutch company Riwal" incorrectly. Different from Bot's statement the brand name Riwal is used by two Dutch companies: apart from Schalekamp Beheer B.V. also by Lima Holding B.V. And Lima Holding is indeed providing - via its Israeli subsidiary - machines which are used for the construction of the barrier.

As part of this research Riwal was asked for more details on its involvement in the construction of the separation wall, but this information was not provided.

Riwal is renting mobile cranes which are used in building the Israeli separation wall in the occupied West Bank.

3.3 Dutch investments by companies active in the occupied territories

The following companies which have their headquarters or a major production facility located in Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel, own subsidiaries in the Netherlands:

- **Agrexco Agricultural Export Company**

For a description of Agrexco Agricultural Export Company see paragraph 2.2. Agrexco owns an office in the Netherlands which is responsible for dealing with Agrexco's fruit and vegetable exports to the Benelux and the Scandinavian countries:

Agrexco Agricultural Export Company Ltd.
De Brauwweg 62
3125 AE Schiedam
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)10-2984000
Fax: +31-(0)10-29840003
Website: www.agrexco.nl

Agrexco has another office which takes care of the flower imports into the Netherlands:

Agrexco Agricultural Export Company Ltd.
Legmeerdijk 313
1431 GB Aalsmeer
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)297-329423
Fax: +31-(0)297-322027

Agrexco Agricultural Export Company is exporting vegetables, fruit and flowers from the occupied West Bank. The company has two marketing offices in the Netherlands.

- **Arava Export Growers**

For a description of Arava Export Growers see paragraph 2.2. Arava Export Growers owns two marketing subsidiaries in the Netherlands: Arava Holland B.V. and Faran B.V. The two companies have two mutual offices in the Netherlands:

Klappolder 92 -96
2665 LP Bleiswijk
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)10-5299475

Douglassingel 25
P.O. Box 75559
1119 MC Schiphol-Rijk
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)20-4467979
Fax: +31-(0)20-6536033

Arava Export Growers is exporting vegetables and fruit from the occupied West Bank. The company has two marketing subsidiaries in the Netherlands.

- **Bio-Lab**

For a description of Bio-Lab Ltd. see paragraph 2.10. Bio-Lab Ltd. has the following Dutch subsidiary:

Biosolve B.V.
Leenderweg 78
5555 CE Valkenswaard
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)40-2071300
Fax: +31-(0)40-2048537
Website: www.biosolve.nl

Bio-Lab produces chemicals in the occupied West Bank. The company owns a Dutch marketing subsidiary: Biosolve.

- **Keter Plastic**

For a description of Keter Plastic Ltd. see paragraph 2.8. Keter Plastic Ltd. owns the following subsidiary in the Netherlands which imports products from Israel, possibly from its plants in the occupied West Bank:

- Keter Europe Gardening B.V.
Ericssonstraat 17
P.O. Box 224
5120 AE Rijen
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)161-228301
Fax: 31-161-228322
Website: www.outstanding-keter.com

Keter Europe Gardening is a Dutch subsidiary of OutStanding Solutions Ltd. This is an Israeli subsidiary of Keter Plastic, producing plastic storage buildings, sheds and storage boxes. Outstanding Solutions operates three manufacturing facilities and a design and development centre in Israel. These products are sold in the Netherlands by large retail chains.¹²⁷

Keter Plastic and its owners (the Israeli family Sagol) also own four other subsidiaries in the Netherlands, which act as holding company or market products produced in the Netherlands or by Keter-subsiaries in other European countries. It is not likely that these subsidiaries are importing products manufactured in the occupied West Bank:

- Allibert B.V.
Zijlweg 65 C
2013 DD Haarlem
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)25-5633944
E-mail: benelux@allibert.net
Website: www.allibert-sanitaire.com

Allibert B.V. is the Dutch marketing office for the bathroom furniture by Keter's French subsidiary Allibert.¹²⁸ Allibert products are sold in the Netherlands by various leading retailer chains.

- Curver Benelux B.V.
Ericssonstraat 17
5121 MK Rijen
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)162-486500
Fax: +31-(0)162-486502
E-mail: info.benelux@curver.com
Website: www.curver.com

Curver Benelux is the marketing office for Curver products in the Benelux: plastic home and food storage, cleaning, closet organization, laundry, bathroom and refuse removal products. These products are produced in Poland and Hungary.¹²⁹ Curver products are sold by many retail chains.

- Jardin Netherlands B.V.
P.O. Box 224
5120 AE Rijen
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)161-228300
Fax: +31-(0)161-227002
Website: www.jardin.nl

Jardin Netherlands is one of the largest producers of plastic garden furniture in the Netherlands, and among the top 3 in Europe. The company has 200 employees and annual sales of € 50 million. Its products are sold under the Jardin brand name by large retail chains in the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Spain and Portugal.¹³⁰

- Jardin International Holding B.V.
Siriusdreef 2
2132 WT Hoofddorp
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)23-5684700
Fax: +31-(0)23-5684717

Jardin International Holding is the Dutch holding company for the European subsidiaries of Keter Plastic.¹³¹

Keter Plastic produces various plastic products in the occupied West Bank. The company owns five Dutch subsidiaries, which are involved in marketing, production and holding company activities: Keter Europe Gardening, Allibert, Curver Benelux, Jardin Netherlands and Jardin International Holding.

- **Mapal Plastic Products**

For a description of Mapal Plastic Products Ltd. see paragraph 2.8. Mapal Plastic Products Ltd. owns the following subsidiary in the Netherlands which imports products from its plant on the occupied Golan Heights:

Mapal Europe B.V.
Hessenbergweg 111
1101 BS Amsterdam Zuidoost
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)20-5774000

Mapal Plastic Products produces plastic products on the occupied Golan Heights. The company owns a Dutch marketing subsidiary: Mapal Europe.

- **Mayanot Eden**

19 Lehi Street
51200 Bnei Brak
Israel
Telephone: +972-3-5777881
Fax: +972-3-6165551
Website: www.meyeden.co.il

Mayanot Eden Ltd. is a large Israeli producer of bottled water, listed on the Tel Aviv stock exchange. The Salukia spring from which it taps its water is located on the Golan Heights. Its bottling plant is located in Katzrin, a Golan Heights industrial zone. In Israel its water is sold under the Mey Eden brand name.¹³²

In May 2003 Mayanot Eden announced a cooperation agreement with the British company Virgin Drinks to introduce Virgin soft drinks in seven flavours on the Israeli market. Virgin brings in the brand name and the recipes. The marketing is done by Mayanot Eden, which hopes to gain a modest 2-3 percent market share. Production will take place in the Super Drink plant in the Atarot industrial zone in the occupied West Bank. This company has 220 employees and is owned by the Michal family. Jonathan Cockport, the international marketing director for Virgin Drinks, said the plant's location is not a problem: "The fact that the plant is situated in the territories doesn't matter to us. It's a production plant and, as long as it provides the proper return and quality products, the location doesn't play a role."¹³³

At the end of the 1990s Mey Eden started a European expansion, selling water under the Eden Springs brand name. In April 2003 a joint venture was established with the French food company Danone, which is a global leader in the bottled water industry. The joint-venture, Danone Springs of Eden, focuses on the so-called *Home and Office Delivery (HOD)* market in Europe: distribution of large water bottles (mainly 5 gallons) to homes and offices. Water is sold under the Eden Springs brand name. In the joint-venture Danone holds a 57% share and Eden Springs a 43% share.¹³⁴ Although the headquarters is located in Lausanne (Switzerland), the joint venture is officially registered in Rotterdam (the Netherlands).¹³⁵ Danone Springs of Eden operates more than 350,000 coolers and holds a 20% share of the European market. It is not clear if (part of) the water sold in Europe comes from the Golan Heights, as the joint venture operates two other springs besides Salukia, in Switzerland and Poland.¹³⁶ Early in 2004, Danone also acquired a 20% share in Mayanot Eden itself from the Israeli Naftali brothers, but in February 2005 the French company had to write off € 150 million on Danone Springs of Eden.¹³⁷

In the Netherlands Eden Springs ranks third on the HOD market.¹³⁸ The water that Eden Springs (Nederland) sells is tapped from a source in Rotterdam and is not originating from the Golan Heights.¹³⁹ The address of this local subsidiary is:

Eden Springs (Nederland) B.V.
Vareseweg 140
3047 AV Rotterdam
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)10-2200021
Fax: +31-(0)10-2200004
Website: www.edensprings.nl

Mayanot Eden also owns two financing and holding companies in the Netherlands.¹⁴⁰

- The Springs of Eden B.V.
- The Danone Springs of Eden B.V. (joint-venture with Danone)

The address of these subsidiaries is:

Fred. Roeskestraat 123
P.O. Box 75288
1070 AG Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)20-6736484
Fax: +31-(0)20-6758869

Mayanot Eden produces bottled water on the occupied Golan Heights. The company owns a subsidiary in the Netherlands, Eden Springs (Nederland), which sells bottled water from a Rotterdam source. Mayanot Eden also owns two financing and holding subsidiaries in the Netherlands.

3.4 Summary

Table 7 and Table 9 provide an overview of the investment links between the Netherlands and companies operating in Israeli settlements in occupied territories, while Table 8 lists Dutch companies which provide infrastructural services and products supporting the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories.

Parent company	Products	Subsidiary	Location	Activity
Soda-Club	Carbonated soft drinks	Soda-Club International	Ma'aleh Adumim	Carbonated devices production
Unilever	Food, detergents, personal care	Beigel & Beigel	Barkan I.Z., West Bank	Pretzel and cracker production

Parent company	Location	Service
Interwand Eibergen	Eibergen	Supply of glass walls for a new terminal at the Erez border crossing between Israel and the occupied Gaza Strip
Riwal / Lima Holding	Dordrecht	Riwal is renting mobile cranes which are used in building the Israeli separation wall in the occupied West Bank.

Table 9 Dutch investments by Israeli companies active in the settlements				
Parent company	Products	Subsidiary	Location	Activity
Agrexco Agricultural Export	Vegetables & fruit	Agrexco Agricultural Export	Schiedam	Marketing
	Flowers	Agrexco Agricultural Export	Aalsmeer	Marketing
Arava Export Growers	Vegetables & fruit	Arava Holland	Bleiswijk	Marketing
	Vegetables & fruit	Faran	Schiphol-Rijk	Marketing
Bio-Lab	Chemicals	Biosolve	Valkenswaard	Marketing
Keter Plastic	Plastic furniture, plastic storage & household products	Keter Europe Gardening	Rijen	Marketing
		Allibert	Haarlem	Marketing
		Curver Benelux	Rijen	Marketing
		Jardin Netherlands	Rijen	Plastic garden furniture production
		Jardin International Holding	Hoofddorp	Holding
Mapal Plastic Products	Plastic products and foils	Mapal Europe	Amsterdam	Marketing
Mayanot Eden	Bottled water	Eden Springs (Nederland)	Rotterdam	Marketing
		The Springs of Eden	Amsterdam	Financing/holding
		The Danone Springs of Eden	Amsterdam	Financing/holding

Chapter 4 Dutch promotion of economic links with Israel

4.1 Introduction

In this chapter we look at companies, organisations and government agencies and departments which aim to promote and stimulate economic relations (trade, investment and otherwise) between the Netherlands and Israel. The aims, constituency and activities of each group are described briefly. For each one, the question will be raised as to whether its promotional activities include economic links with Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel.

4.2 Dutch government agencies and departments

In November 2005 the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs responded to Dutch parliamentary questions by stating that “if a Dutch company were to request help from the [Dutch] embassy [in Israel] in doing business with a company located in the occupied territories (or vice versa), the Dutch embassy would not render assistance.”¹⁴¹

The following Dutch government agencies and departments play a role in stimulating economic relations between the Netherlands and Israel:

- **Agency for International Business and Cooperation (EVD)**

Juliana van Stolberglaan 148
P.O. Box 20105
2500 EC Den Haag
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)70-7788888
Fax: +31-(0)70-7788889
E-mail: evd@info.evd.nl
Website: www.evd.nl

The Agency for International Business and Cooperation (EVD) is part of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs. Its mission is to promote and encourage international business and international cooperation. It obtains its information from its network of Dutch and international organisations, which include international financing organisations, the European Commission, embassies, Chambers of Commerce, local business support offices, trade representative associations and trade and industry.

The EVD organizes and provides trade visits, meetings, seminars, individual support, reports, magazines and websites (www.evd.nl, www.hollandtrade.com, www.internationaalondernemen.nl). The EVD also helps the Dutch diplomatic missions abroad to carry out their economic and trade duties as efficiently as possible and supervises their work in this area.

After a recent merger with another agency, the EVD now also administers the financial government programmes supporting trade and investment with emerging markets and developing countries. In addition, the EVD is devoting more attention to the private sector in emerging markets and developing countries and will conduct special programmes to assist the public sector in emerging markets.

EVD provides extensive information on the Israeli society and economy for Dutch companies interested in doing business with Israel. A huge amount of practical advice is provided on the website, but Dutch companies are not advised in any way to avoid business relationships with (companies operating in) Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel.¹⁴²

Dutch companies interested in doing business with Israel can contact the EVD's country manager for Israel, ms. Van Baarle, by telephone or e-mail, for further advice or information. According to ms. Van Baarle the issue of trade and investment links with companies located in Israeli settlements in the territories occupied by Israel is never raised by Dutch companies asking for more information. If the issue were raised, the EVD would inform Dutch companies on the EU stance with regard to import duties levied on imports from the settlements. But the EVD sees no reason to explain this policy actively, for instance on the EVD's website.¹⁴³

The Agency for International Business and Cooperation (EVD) promotes international trade and investment by Dutch companies in and with Israel. The EVD has no clear policy on settlement trade and investments.

- **Atradius**

Keizersgracht 281
P.O. Box 473
1000 AL Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)20-5539111
Fax: +31-(0)20-5532811
E-mail: info@atradius.com.
Website: www.atradius.com

Atradius N.V. is a leading credit insurer with a total revenue of around € 1.3 billion and a world-wide market share of 24 per cent. It insures about € 300 billion of world-wide trade annually against the risk of non-payment and provides a comprehensive range of risk transfer, financing and trade receivables management. The headquarters of Atradius are located in Amsterdam, but the company is owned by a number of foreign financial institutions of which Swiss Re, Deutsche Bank and Grupo Catalana Occidente are the most important.¹⁴⁴

For decades Atradius and its predecessor, the NCM, have been managing Dutch government foreign trade and insurance guarantees. Since 2002 the Dutch government has allowed Atradius to publish details on the guarantees provided. Investments by Dutch companies in Israel have not been insured since 2002, but exports by Dutch companies to Israel have been guaranteed twice since 2002, as shown in the following table:¹⁴⁵

Date	Guarantee	Dutch company	Amount
March 2003	Export credit guarantee	Meyn Food Processing Technology	€ 1.576.100
April 2004	Export credit guarantee	Siemens Nederland	€ 39.007.700

These two export credit guarantees do not have a relationship with Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel. Atradius, however, does not categorically exclude investments in or trade with Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel from guarantees. If a Dutch company should apply for an export credit guarantee for exports to an Israeli company located in an Israeli settlement in territories occupied by Israel, this would be decided on an ad hoc basis. If the Israeli importer (located in occupied territory) has no parent company in Israel itself or outside Israel, which would be able to guarantee the transaction, Atradius would refuse the application, as the risk would be too high and impossible to reinsure. But if the importer has a parent which can guarantee the transaction, it would not be rejected automatically. In practice Atradius has never received a request to guarantee exports to or investments in the Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel.¹⁴⁶

Atradius offers export credit guarantees and investment guarantees on behalf of the Dutch government. Atradius does not categorically refuse to guarantee trade with - or investments in - settlements.

- **Ministry of Agriculture (LNV)**

Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuur en Voedselkwaliteit
Bezuidenhoutseweg 73
P.O. Box 20401
2500 EK Den Haag
Telephone: +31-(0)70-3786868
Fax: +31-(0)70-3786100
E-mail: ank-lnv@minbuza.nl
Website: www.minlnv.nl

The Dutch Ministry of Agriculture (LNV) aims to stimulate agricultural trade between the Netherlands on the one hand and Israel and the Palestinian territories on the other. Stimulating this trade is the main responsibility of the Dutch agricultural attaché at the Dutch embassy in Ankara, Mrs. Konsten, who is responsible for Turkey, Israel and the Palestinian territories. The attaché provides information on export and investment opportunities through various government publications and regularly visits the Netherlands to provide information to interested companies.¹⁴⁷

According to Mrs. Konsten she is never approached by Israeli companies operating in settlements in occupied territories, nor by Dutch companies intending to trade with settlements. The attaché does not actively provide information on settlement trade to companies; she refers all questions on juridical and tax issues to the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Israel (see below).¹⁴⁸

The Ministry of Agriculture promotes agricultural trade between the Netherlands and Israel. Questions regarding the settlements are referred to the Dutch embassy in Israel.

- **Netherlands Foreign Investment Agency**

P.O. Box 20061
2500 EB Den Haag
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)70-3798818
Website: www.nfia.nl

The Netherlands Foreign Investment Agency (NFIA) facilitates direct investments of foreign companies in the Netherlands, providing information, strategic perspective and practical help. The NFIA is a division of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs. The agency has helped hundreds of foreign companies to initiate or expand operations in the Netherlands. In all, more than 5,000 foreign companies have established operations in the Netherlands. Through its network of worldwide offices the NFIA focuses on (subsidiaries of) companies from North America, PR China, Japan, Taiwan, Korea, Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom. Investments by companies from Israel have not been facilitated during the past two years.¹⁴⁹

The Netherlands Foreign Investment Agency promotes investments in the Netherlands. Its policy on Dutch investments by settlement companies is unknown.

- **Royal Netherlands Embassy in Israel**

Beit Oz
14 Abba Hillel Street
Ramat Gan 52506
Israel
Telephone: +972-3-7523150
Fax: +972-3-7523135
E-mail: nlgovtel@012.net.il
Website: www.netherlands-embassy.co.il

The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Israel has an Economy and Trade Department, which assists the Dutch business community with business in Israel and helps Israeli companies to find their way in the Netherlands.¹⁵⁰

Together with the Israel Netherlands Chamber of Commerce, the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Israel has set up the website *Holland-Israel Trade Portal* (www.holland-israel.com). This website offers “all the information needed in order to trade with Holland or Israel”. It aims to provide Dutch and Israeli companies with an effective tool for expanding bilateral commercial relations. For this purpose a database has been created, which lists companies that are active in both Israel and the Netherlands as well as companies that seek business opportunities in the two countries.¹⁵¹

According to mr. Beenen of the Economy and Trade Department of the embassy, the embassy will not offer any information or services to Dutch companies wishing to export to - or invest in - Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel. Neither does the embassy offer any services to companies located in Israeli settlements in the territories occupied by Israel. In practice, the embassy has never been approached by a company from the settlements or by a Dutch company wishing to deal with a settlement company. The embassy does not have information on any economic links between the Netherlands and the Israeli settlements in the territories occupied by Israel. The embassy does not research these links actively and does not proactively provide information to companies on the status of the settlements. Neither does the embassy check the origin of the companies which register themselves on the website *Holland-Israel Trade Portal*.¹⁵²

The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Israel promotes trade between the Netherlands and Israel. Trade with - or investment in - settlements is not facilitated, but settlement companies are not removed from the embassy's internet trade portal.

4.3 Private organizations and companies

- **Chamber of Commerce Netherlands-Israel**

Bankrashof 3
1183 NP Amstelveen
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)20-5038063
Fax: +31-(0)20-5038064
E-mail: info@kvknederlandisrael.nl
Website: www.kvknederlandisrael.nl

The Kamer van Koophandel Nederland-Israël (Chamber of Commerce Netherlands-Israel), established in 1949, is an association of Netherlands-based companies which have trade relations with Israeli companies. The chamber undertakes various activities to promote trade between the two countries and assists its members in expanding existing trade relationships and finding new ones. Activities include matchmaking, trade missions, market research, meetings, et cetera. The most recent trade mission to Israel took place from 6 to 11 November and was headed by Jan Kamminga, the chairman of the FME (Federation of Metal Companies).¹⁵³

In promoting economic links between Dutch and Israeli companies, the Chamber of Commerce Netherlands-Israel does not distinguish between companies operating in Israel and companies operating in the settlements, according to Mr. Cortissos of the Chamber. However, in practice the Chamber has never been approached by Israeli or Dutch companies willing to establish a trade or investment link between the Netherlands and an Israeli settlement in territories occupied by Israel. But if such a request should come up, the Chamber would not refuse assistance.¹⁵⁴

The Chamber of Commerce Netherlands-Israel promotes international trade and investment by Dutch companies in and with Israel. The Chamber does not exclude trade with - and investments in - the settlements.

- **Christenen voor Israël**

Patroonstraat 1
P.O. Box 1100
3860 BC Nijkerk
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)33-2458824
Fax: +31-(0)33-2463644
E-mail: info@christenenvoorisrael.nl
Website: www.christenenvoorisrael.nl

Stichting Christenen voor Israël aims to “educate Christians in the Netherlands and worldwide about the importance of the Jewish people for Gods acts in this world”. Concretely, the foundation organizes meetings, issues publications, raises funds for projects in Israel and organizes solidarity trips to Israel. One of the continuing projects of Christenen voor Israël is the symbolic planting of tulip bulbs in Israeli settlements in occupied territories in the Gaza Strip (until August 2005), in the West Bank and on the Golan Heights.¹⁵⁵

Among the projects supported are the Golan Welfare Departments on the occupied Golan Heights, which received a donation of € 5,000 in December 2004.¹⁵⁶

Christenen voor Israël also exploits a shop, the Israël Producten Centrum, which sells products from Israel. Among the products sold are settlement products such as Adanim teas and Pyramid herbal seasonings (see paragraph 2.3), Barkan, Monfort and Carmel wines (see paragraph 2.5) and Mineral Care and Time Control beauty products (see paragraph 2.7).¹⁵⁷

<p>Christenen voor Israël promotes solidarity among Dutch Christians with Israel. It also exploits a shop, the Israël Producten Centrum, which sells several settlement products.</p>
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- **Federatie Nederlandse Zionisten**

Buitenplein 65
1181 ZE Amstelveen
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)20-6402380
Fax: +31-(0)20-3452260
E-mail: info@fnz.info
Website: www.fnz.info

The Federatie Nederlandse Zionisten (FNZ) is the Dutch federation of all Jewish Zionist organizations in the Netherlands.¹⁵⁸

The FNZ is mentioned here because it is the Dutch chapter of the World Zionist Organisation (WZO). The WZO has been systematically used as a primary apparatus for investments in the settlements. Funded heavily by the Israeli government, the WZO spends money in developing Jewish-only agricultural projects in the settlements. It is estimated that between 2000-2002 alone, NIS 385 million (€ 71 million) was spent by the WZO on agricultural projects in the settlements.¹⁵⁹

Its website does not provide information as to if and how FNZ is involved in the WZO activities in relation to the settlements.¹⁶⁰

The Federatie Nederlandse Zionisten is the Dutch chapter of the World Zionist Organisation, which has been systematically used as a primary apparatus for investment in the settlements.

- **Israel Office Delft**

Koninginnegracht 14e
2514 AA Den Haag
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)70-3115555
Fax: +31-(0)70-3115556
Website: www.israeloffice.com

The Israel Office Delft has been established by the city of Delft to expand the good relationship with its twin city of Kfar Sava with specific economic ties. The office assists Israeli companies and institutions in their attempts to establish or create cooperation in Delft. Recently, through the intermediation of the office, intentions for close working relations between the Delft University of Technology and the Technion Haifa have been agreed upon.¹⁶¹

The Israel Office Delft has been established by the city of Delft to expand the good relationship with Kfar Sava in Israel. Its policy on relationships with the settlements is not known.

- **Joods Nationaal Fonds**

Van Leijenberghlaan 197-d
P.O. Box 78030
1070 LP Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)20-6466477
Fax: +31-(0)20-6466454
E-mail: adm@jnf.nl
Website: www.jnf.nl

The Joods Nationaal Fonds is the Dutch branch of the Jewish National Fund, which was set up to buy land for Jewish agricultural pioneers after the establishment of the Israeli state in 1948. At present the Joods Nationaal Fonds raises funds from the Dutch public to plant trees in Israeli desert areas.¹⁶²

The Jewish National Fund (JNF) now owns 255,500 hectares of land, or 13% of the total area of Israel. This land is managed by Israel Lands Administration, a state agency, and can not be leased by Palestinian citizens of Israel.¹⁶³

The JNF is also involved in financing settlements in the territories occupied by Israel.¹⁶⁴

The Joods Nationaal Fonds is the Dutch branch of the Jewish National Fund which owns a large part of the land in Israel and is involved in financing settlements.

- **KPMG**

Burgemeester Rijnderslaan 10-20
1185 MC Amstelveen
P.O. Box 74500
1070 DB Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)20-6567890
Fax: +31-(0)20-6567700
Website: www.kpmg.nl

The KPMG Israeli Desk in the Netherlands, together with the KPMG Dutch Desk in Israel, assists Israeli and Dutch companies in establishing new ventures or improving the efficiency and profitability of existing Israeli-Dutch business. As advantages for Israeli companies to establish a presence in the Netherlands, KPMG mentions “the well-established relationship between the Netherlands and Israel, the high quality of the infrastructure in the Netherlands, EU membership and the excellent opportunities for Israeli companies to optimise their tax planning through the Netherlands.” For Dutch companies, “Israel’s well-developed, high-tech sector offers reasonably priced know-how and rapid research and development of innovative products and services.”¹⁶⁵ Among the customers of KPMG Israeli Desk are no companies operating in Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel, but such customers would not be rejected categorically. Such customers would be accepted by KPMG if their activities and policies were in accordance with KPMG’s ethics code.¹⁶⁶

The KPMG Israeli Desk assists Dutch and Israeli companies to establish business links. KPMG does not exclude trade with - and investment in - the settlements.

- **OPTIN**

P.O. Box 11646
2502 AP Den Haag
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)70-3643260
Fax: +31-(0)70-3653372
E-mail: optin@optin.nl
Website: www.optin.nl

Organization for the Promotion of Trade Israel-Netherlands (OPTIN) promotes new technologies and developments and focuses on bringing to light new business opportunities in Israel, the Netherlands and worldwide. This is done to stimulate bilateral co-operation, new ventures, investments, and strategic alliances. With this aim OPTIN undertakes the following activities:¹⁶⁷

- Stimulation of Scientific Research between Israel and The Netherlands
- Promoting the awareness of Bilateral Co-operation Possibilities
- Organising contact days between businesses and scientists
- Informing Dutch organisations, companies, governments and students about the economic situation, new developments and opportunities in Israel and vice versa
- Accompanying delegations to and from Israel
- Surveying the Dutch and Israeli market.

OPTIN is sponsored by Matimop, the Israeli Industry Center for R&D. This is a public non-profit organization, founded by the three major associations of manufacturers in Israel. It functions as the interface between Israeli companies and their international counterparts, to promote joint development of advanced technologies.¹⁶⁸

OPTIN collaborates with seven Israeli universities and with the so-called *technological incubators*. “Technological incubators are support corporations that give fledgling entrepreneurs an opportunity to develop their innovative technological ideas and set up new businesses in order to commercialize them. The incubator programme is applied in all parts of the country, under the guidance and with the support of the Office of the Chief Scientist of the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Israel.” Several of these technological incubators are/were located in Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel.¹⁶⁹

- Green Tech Kiryat Arba - West Bank
- Incentive Technological Incubator Ariel - West Bank
- Meytag High Tech Ventures Katzrin - Golan Heights
- Mofet B'Yehuda - Technology and Business Incubator Kiryat Arba - West Bank
- Western Negev Initiative Center Neve Dekalim - Gaza Strip (until August 2005)

Despite this collaboration with incubators located in Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel, a spokesperson of OPTIN states that the organization has never dealt with companies located in Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel. These companies would be welcome to OPTIN activities, however. OPTIN does not distinguish in any way between companies located in Israel and companies located in Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel.¹⁷⁰

OPTIN stimulates bilateral cooperation between Dutch and Israeli companies and organizations in the field of new technologies. OPTIN does not exclude trade with - and investment in - the settlements.

Chapter 5 Dutch economic links with selected foreign companies

5.1 Introduction

Historically, Israel has very strong political, economic and military ties with the United States. Many American companies are involved in trading with (or investing in) companies located in Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel, in supplying arms to the Israeli army and in collaborating with the Israeli military industry. American solidarity organizations, universities, churches and other organizations are increasingly engaging with these companies to persuade them to stop their support to the Israeli occupation.

One of the most prominent organizations involved in these corporate engagement activities, is the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). In August 2005 the *Mission Responsibility through Investment (MRTI) Committee* of the Presbyterian Church announced that it will begin its process of *progressive engagement* with five companies it says contribute to the ongoing violence that plagues Israel and Palestine. Although many more American companies may contribute to this violence, the MRTI committee decided to focus initially on five companies, of which Caterpillar is the most well-known.

Carol Hylkema, chairperson of the MRTI committee said, "We have chosen these companies because we believe that they can make changes that will increase the possibilities for a just peace in the region. As shareholders of these companies, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) calls on them to act responsibly."¹⁷¹

Another prominent organization addressing the corporate responsibility of companies contributing to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Syrian territories, is the human rights organisation Amnesty International. In June 2004, the Irish section of Amnesty International asked the Irish government to investigate the probable links of the Irish company Cement Roadstone Holdings to the construction of Israel's illegal separation wall in the West Bank.¹⁷²

More recently, much international attention has been focussed on the French company Veolia Environnement which is involved in building a tramway between Jerusalem and a number of Israeli settlements in occupied East Jerusalem.¹⁷³

In the following paragraphs we will describe these three companies (from the United States, Ireland and France), their role in the Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Syrian territories and their economic linkages with the Netherlands. These Dutch links are not necessarily related directly to the activities of these five companies in Israel and the Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel, but indirectly (for instance when Dutch financial institutions are providing general corporate finance to these five companies) they can certainly be relevant.

The overview of companies mentioned in this chapter should not raise the expectation of completeness. The international companies discussed were known to support or facilitate the Israeli occupation before any research was carried out, for which reason they were discussed as cases here. Profound further research would probably reveal more Dutch companies with relationships with international companies which are involved in the Israeli occupation.

5.2 Caterpillar

5.2.1 Introduction

Caterpillar is an important large manufacturer of heavy equipment, which is used by the Israeli military and privately-owned companies under contract to Israeli government authorities. The equipment is used for the demolition of Palestinian homes and schools, the uprooting of olive trees, construction of roads and infrastructure in the Israeli settlements in territories occupied by Israel for use only by Israeli settlers, and facilitating military incursions by widening roads for the passage of tanks and armoured vehicles. Caterpillar's bulldozers have also been used in the construction of the wall which Israel has been building on Palestinian land and which has been ruled illegal by the International Court of Justice. As a result of this involvement in the abuse of Palestinians' human rights, Caterpillar has been subject to unprecedented criticism from the United Nations and international human rights groups.¹⁷⁴

5.2.2 Dutch subsidiaries

Caterpillar has various subsidiaries in the Netherlands, engaged in logistics, manufacturing and financial services:¹⁷⁵

Caterpillar Financial Services Netherlands B.V.
Spaklerweg 45
1096 BA Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)20-5606520
Fax: +31-(0)20-5606522

Caterpillar Logistics Services
Hazeldonk 6522
4836 LD Breda
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)76-5967000
Fax: +31-(0)76-5967033

Caterpillar Logistics Services
Bolderweg 30
1332 AV Almere
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)36-5494949
Fax: +31-(0)36-5329874

Caterpillar Power Ventures Europe B.V.
Strawinskylaan 3105 Atrium
1077 ZX Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)20-4064444
Fax: +31-(0)20-4064555

Caterpillar Works Tools B.V.
Sigarenmakerstraat 9
5232 BJ 's Hertogenbosch
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)73-6399600
Fax: +31-(0)73-6423065

Mitsubishi Caterpillar Forklift Europe B.V.
Hefbrugweg 77
1332 AM Almere
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)36-5306794

Turbomach Netherlands
Rijksstraatweg 22 G
2171 AL Sassenheim
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)71-4080919
Fax: +31-(0)71-4080920
Website: www.turbomach.com

Veratech Holding B.V.
Sigarenmakerstraat 9
5232 BJ 's Hertogenbosch
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)73-6399600
Fax: +31-(0)73-6423065

5.2.3 Financial services by a Dutch bank

The Dutch bank ABN AMRO Bank has been involved in various ways in raising funds to finance Caterpillar's global activities, by participating in two revolving credit syndicates and underwriting several bond issuances:

- In May 2001 Caterpillar issued bonds with a total value of US\$ 500 million on the international capital market. The bonds will mature in 2006 and carry a 5.950% interest. The bond issuance was managed by an underwriting syndicate headed by the American investment banks Morgan Stanley & Co. and Salomon Smith Barney. ABN AMRO Bank participated in the syndicate for an amount of US\$ 22.5 million. This means that ABN AMRO Bank bought bonds with that total value from Caterpillar and tried to sell these bonds to its clients (investment funds, insurance companies, et cetera). If the bank did not succeed in selling all the bonds, it would keep the rest itself. Because of this so-called *underwriting agreement*, Caterpillar is certain of selling all the bonds issued.¹⁷⁶
- In June 2002 Caterpillar issued bonds with a total value of US\$ 350 million on the international capital market. The bonds will mature in 2007 and carry a 4.875% interest. The bond issuance was managed by an underwriting syndicate headed by the American investment banks J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. and Salomon Smith Barney. ABN AMRO Bank participated in the syndicate to the amount of US\$ 11.7 million.¹⁷⁷
- In April 2005 Caterpillar issued asset-backed notes with a total value of US\$ 819.7 million. ABN AMRO Bank was one of the five banks participating in the underwriting syndicate. The amount underwritten by ABN AMRO Bank was US\$ 286.0 million.¹⁷⁸

With its participation in these two bond issuances, ABN AMRO Bank has helped Caterpillar to raise debt from institutional and private investors. This sum can be used to finance new investments by Caterpillar as well as to run its existing operations. To give an indication of the importance of these bonds: at the end of 2004 Caterpillar and its subsidiaries owned assets with a total value of US\$ 43.1 billion. Of total assets, US\$ 15.8 billion (36.7%) was financed by various types of bonds. The three bond issuances in which ABN AMRO Bank was involved raised US\$ 1,669.7 million, 10.6% of total bonds issued by Caterpillar.¹⁷⁹

- In September 2004 Caterpillar obtained a US\$ 2,500 million revolving credit facility from an international banking syndicate arranged by six international banks including ABN AMRO Bank. The revolving credit facility will mature in 2009. ABN AMRO Bank itself participated for US\$ 162.5 million in this facility.¹⁸⁰
At the same time, Caterpillar also obtained a US\$ 2,500 million one-year loan from the same banking syndicate.¹⁸¹ This loan was refinanced in September 2005 (see below).
- In September 2005 Caterpillar obtained a US\$ 1,625 million revolving credit facility from an international banking syndicate arranged by six international banks including ABN AMRO Bank. The revolving credit facility will mature in 2010. ABN AMRO Bank itself participated for US\$ 106.3 million in this facility.¹⁸²

The amounts agreed in these two credit facilities have not actually been lent to Caterpillar. They serve as a back stop to the commercial paper programme of Caterpillar. They provide assurance to the buyers of commercial paper (a kind of bond) issued by Caterpillar, that the company has alternative sources of funds so the commercial paper can be repaid at maturity. If Caterpillar had insufficient funds at that time, the banks would take over the repayment.

ABN AMRO Bank thus enables Caterpillar to issue commercial paper for a total amount of US\$ 168.6 million.

Caterpillar is an American producer of heavy equipment, which is used by the Israeli military for the demolition of Palestinian homes and the construction of infrastructure in the Israeli settlements. Caterpillar owns various subsidiaries in the Netherlands and has a banking relationship with ABN AMRO Bank.

5.3 Cement Roadstone Holdings

5.3.1 Introduction

Cement Roadstone Holdings Plc. (CRH), headquartered in Ireland, has operations in 24 countries, employing approximately 60,000 people at over 2,100 locations. Its operations focus on the production of primary materials (cement, aggregates and ready-mixed concrete), the production of value-added building products and the distribution of specialist building materials.¹⁸³

In August 2001 Cement Roadstone Holdings acquired a 25% shareholding in the Israeli company Mashav Group from Clal Industries. Mashav Group is the holding company for Neshar Israel Cement Enterprises, the sole producer of cement in Israel. The company operates plants in Haifa, Ramla and Har Tuv, supplying cement throughout Israel, the West Bank and Gaza.¹⁸⁴ CRH also obtained an option to acquire an additional 25% of Mashav Group, but this option expired in early 2004.¹⁸⁵

In a conversation with Amnesty International in June 2004 CRH conceded that, in all probability, cement from Neshar Cement was being used for the construction of Israel's illegal separation wall on the West Bank. Close to 90% of the route of the wall is on Palestinian land inside the West Bank, encircling Palestinian towns and villages and cutting off communities and families from each other, separating farmers from their land and Palestinians from their places of work and education and health care facilities and other essential services.¹⁸⁶

In July 2004 the International Court of Justice in The Hague ruled that the construction of the wall is in breach of international law, that it must be dismantled, and that compensation must be paid to Palestinian owners of property confiscated for its construction.¹⁸⁷

5.3.2 Dutch subsidiaries

In October 2003 Cement Roadstone Holdings greatly expanded its activities in the Netherlands by acquiring the distribution and building products operations of Cementbouw Handel & Industrie and by acquiring a joint venture stake in a leveraged buyout of Cementbouw's materials operations.¹⁸⁸

CRH now claims to be the market leader in the Benelux for paving products, pre-cast flooring and daylight & ventilation products. In the Netherlands, Cement Roadstone Holdings claims to be the market leader in quality facing bricks and expanded polystyrene (EPS).

Furthermore, CRH owns the leading chain of builders merchants in the Netherlands with 63 branches operating under the Cementbouw and NCD Builders Merchants franchises. Finally, CRH is now the market leader in the do-it-yourself sector in the Netherlands, operating 129 stores under the Gamma and Karwei franchises.¹⁸⁹

(N.B. About 100 Gamma and Karwei stores are operated by other companies.)

The main address of Cement Roadstone Holdings in the Netherlands is:¹⁹⁰

CRH Europe P&D B.V.
Einsteinlaan 26
2289 CC Rijswijk
The Netherlands.
Telephone: +31-(0)70-4142400

The Irish company Cement Roadstone Holdings is a co-owner of the most important cement supplier to the Israeli wall in the West Bank. CRH owns various subsidiaries in the Netherlands, including 129 Gamma and Karwei stores.

5.4 Veolia Environnement

5.4.1 Introduction

Veolia Environnement is a large French company listed on the Paris stock exchange, which is active in water, waste management, energy services and transport. Its transport division, Veolia Transport, is best known under its brand name Connex. Veolia Transport is the leading private European passenger transport operator and specialises in delegated public utility operation. Veolia Transport operates in 25 countries and employs 61,000 people. In 2004, Veolia Transport generated a turnover of € 3.6 billion. The company operates 27,000 road and rail vehicles and carries over 2 billion passengers per year.¹⁹¹

In Israel, Connex manages two bus networks, an interurban system that links Ashdod with Tel Aviv and an urban network in Tiberias.¹⁹² Connex also participates in the consortium City-Pass, which in 2002 won the € 400 million contract for the construction of a light rail system in Jerusalem. Other consortium-partners include Polar Investments, Ashrom and Harel Insurance Investments (all from Israel) and Alstom (France). The light rail system will have a length of 13.8 kilometers and will go from Mount Herzl to Pisgat Ze'ev via Jaffa Road.¹⁹³

The path of the light rail incorporates a number of Jewish settlements in and around East Jerusalem, located on occupied Palestinian land. According to opponents the project ensures the contiguity of these colonies into the central areas of the city and provides them with a vital transport link. The project also states that the "Ammunition Hill" station of

the network will operate as the feeder station for settler traffic from Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, including Ma'aleh Adumim and settlements in the Jordan Valley. The light rail project is therefore seen to play a key role in sustaining the settlements and ensuring they become a permanent fixture upon Palestinian land.¹⁹⁴ Prompted by questions in the French senate, the French government in March 2006 acknowledged that the tramway project is illegal as it passes through occupied territories.¹⁹⁵

5.4.2 Dutch subsidiaries

Veolia Environnement owns a number of Dutch public transport companies, which operate under the Connex brand name. These companies were acquired at the beginning of this decade, when public transport systems in the Netherlands were privatized. Total turnover of these Dutch transport companies amounted to € 202 million in 2004. The companies operate 860 buses, 340 taxis and two ships, with a total of 3,253 employees. In the Netherlands Veolia Transport owns the following companies:¹⁹⁶

- BBA: bus transport in Brabant province, the Veluwe region, and the northwest of Utrecht province, as well as four taxi companies and the PZN call center for on-demand transportation in northern Brabant;
- SBM: bus transport in the town of Maastricht;
- Limex: bus transport in Limburg province;
- Two ferries transporting 800,000 passengers per year between Vlissingen and Breskens on the Escaut estuary.

The address of the head office of Veolia Transport Netherlands is:

Veolia Transport Nederland B.V.
Mastbosstraat 14
P.O. Box 3306
4800 DH Breda
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31-(0)76-5221199
Fax: +31-(0)76-5281204
E-mail: tkienhorst@bba.nl
Website: www.veolia-transport.nl

The French company Veolia Environnement is building a light rail system connecting Jerusalem to Israeli settlements in occupied East Jerusalem and other parts of the occupied West Bank. Veolia Environnement owns various public transport companies in the Netherlands, providing bus, taxi and ferry transport in a large part of the Netherlands.

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