EC/Israel agreement: government and telecommunications operators procurement

1996/0104(CNS) - 16/01/1997

The rapporteur, Mr DE CLERCQ (ELDR, BE), stressed that the agreement on telecommunications contracts would go further than the results of the Uruguay Round. He explained that Israel was more interested in signing this agreement whereas the European Union was more interested in the other agreement on public contracts. Mr De Clercq insisted that liberalisation of trade should be extended to the other countries in the region to encourage both economic integration and political stability in the area. For Commissioner Bonino, these two agreements were the product of cooperation established by the association agreement between the European Union and Israel. As regards the agreement on public contracts, she stressed the competitiveness of the European Union in the urban transport sector. As for the telecommunications agreement, Israel had immediately abolished a 15% price preference and removed a preferential provision which it had applied previously. In general, the Commissioner felt that the opening up of markets thus achieved, which was completely new, was very much positive.