EC/Israel agreement: government and telecommunications operators procurement

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The Committee on External Economic Relations adopted its chairman's report on the conclusion of two agreements between the European Community and the state of Israel concerning the liberalization of government procurement and telecommunications procurement. Given the positive economic aspects of these two agreements, the committee recommends that they be approved by Parliament. The conclusion of two separate agreements is necessary because the first agreement (government procurement) essentially complements the 1996 WTO Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) and the second agreement (telecommunications procurement) covers a sector to which the 1996 GPA does not apply. The committee believes that Israel and the European Union will benefit from these two agreements, Israel's main concern being to guarantee access for certain high-tech goods, with the Union focussing on public procurement, particularly in the transport sector.