

NOTICE TO IMPORTERS**Importations from Israel into the Community**

(97/C 338/10)

Arising from facts revealed during joint inquiries carried out in Israel by the competent local authorities and an EU delegation made up of representatives of the Commission and some of the Member States it would seem that there are grounds for doubts about the validity of EUR.1 movement certificates submitted to the Community in recent years for importations of orange juice coming from Israel.

This specific situation is aggravated by the fact that since the inquiry got under way, various elements have come to light which confirm a lack of effective administrative cooperation, as foreseen in the different preferential agreements signed between the Community and Israel, and in particular certain substantial errors in the application of those same agreements, to the extent that the validity of all preferential certificates issued by Israel, for all products, are put in doubt.

Community operators submitting such certificates in order to receive preferential treatment are informed that they must take the necessary precautions from now on, bearing in mind that, should they prove invalid, such certificates have already engendered or could give rise to a customs debt.
