

Question for written answer E-001532/2025/rev.1

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 144

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Subject: Israeli legislation on registration and visa issuance for international NGOs

On 9 March 2025, new Israeli legislation on registration and visa issuance for international NGOs came into effect¹. Both Israeli and international observers note that these provisions are aimed at denying access to international NGOs providing assistance to the Palestinian population². Visa requirements are now purposely vague and thus highly discretionary, with the registration applications of international NGOs being evaluated solely by government officials. Consequently, this legislation risks becoming a tool for silencing government critics.

The Knesset is also considering further financial and operational restrictions for internationally funded NGOs³, including an 80 % tax on international donations and barring access to justice for NGOs relying on foreign funding.

These repressive policies will likely obstruct the delivery of humanitarian aid and welfare services to Palestinians. While the EU allocates EUR 1.5 billion for Palestinian assistance, Israel's policies threaten the operations of many EU-funded humanitarian actors⁴.

Taking into account Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement:

1. Was the new Israeli legislation on international NGOs discussed at the latest EU-Israel Association Council meeting? If so, what was the outcome of the discussion?
2. Will the Commission propose the suspension of the Association Agreement if international NGOs are forbidden access to the Occupied Palestinian Territories?

Supporters⁵

¹ <https://www.gov.il/he/pages/dec2542-2024>

² Inter alia: <https://gisha.org/en/ngos-in-israel-condemn-an-israeli-government-decision-designed-to-deny-registration-and-work-visas-to-international-humanitarian-organizations/>; <https://www.focsiv.it/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Dossier-Informativo-questione-registrazione-in-Israele.pdf>; <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/implementation-new-israeli-ngo-registration-and-visa-regulations>

³ S. Sokol, Ministers advance bill levying 80% tax on foreign state funding of Israeli NGOs, The times of Israel, 16 February 2025, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/ministers-vote-to-back-bill-levying-80-tax-on-foreign-state-funding-of-israeli-ngos/>

⁴ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-humanitarian-support-to-palestinians/>

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