

**Question for written answer E-003206/2025
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Compatibility of Horizon Europe cooperation with Israeli arms company Rafael with EU law and ethical standards

According to media reports, including an article in *il manifesto* dated 15 July 2025, the Israeli weapons manufacturer Rafael – involved in the production of lethal drones and missile systems used in Gaza – has benefited from EU research funds through participation in Horizon Europe projects.

Rafael is a major contractor for the Israeli Ministry of Defense and is directly involved in the ongoing military operations in Gaza, which have resulted in large-scale civilian casualties and multiple violations of international humanitarian law.

Regulation (EU) 2021/695¹ establishing the Horizon Europe funding programme stipulates that projects must comply with ethical principles, including international law and human rights, and Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union affirms the EU's commitment to human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality and respect for human rights.

Given this, can the Commission clarify:

1. Whether Rafael currently benefits from Horizon Europe funding directly or through consortia?
2. What measures are in place to ensure that participants in Horizon Europe-funded projects do not contribute to or profit from violations of international humanitarian law?
3. Whether the Commission considers Rafael's participation in Horizon Europe to be compatible with EU legal and ethical standards, and if not, whether it will move to suspend or exclude Rafael from future EU-funded research activities?

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¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013 (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/695/oj>).