

EN

E-001922/2025

Answer given by Ms Šuica
on behalf of the European Commission
(24.11.2025)

The Commission has currently one ongoing grant contract with Sabeel as one of the co-beneficiaries under the European Peacebuilding Initiative¹.

1. As regards checks before granting funding, the new Financial Regulation² introduced an explicit ground for exclusion from EU funding in cases of incitement to discrimination, hatred or violence against a group of persons or a member of a group or similar activities that are contrary to the EU values where the conduct may negatively affect the performance of the contract. Contractors are also checked to ensure that no other reasons for exclusions exist (e.g. previous mishandling of funds).

2. The Commission takes accusations on EU-funded partners very seriously and has verified all the elements of allegations highlighted in the written question and by NGO Monitor in accordance with its internal procedure. The conclusion is that none of the mentioned elements constitute a contractual breach related to incitement to hatred and violence. In particular with regards to the declaration of the former director of Sabeel, the quoted declaration comes from his book 'Justice and only Justice' published in 1989. The Commission considers that the organisation Sabeel should therefore not be taken accountable for it. The former director of Sabeel later clarified his views, reaffirming the importance of preserving Israel as a Jewish state, as referred in the same article used by NGO Monitor to justify their allegations.

3. According to the standard general conditions applicable to the EU grant contracts, the Commission may suspend the implementation of contracts if the suspension is deemed necessary to verify whether the beneficiary breached its obligations or committed irregularities. The verification may result either in lifting the suspension, or in the early termination of the contract, or in the exclusion of the beneficiary from future EU fundings.

¹ Faithful Futures: Religious Leaders for Accountability, Justice and Peace through the Two-State Solution.

² Article 138(1)(c)(vi) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast), OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024.