

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002061/25
to the Commission**

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(22 May 2025)

Subject: EU funding for NGOs active in Israel

Between 2021 and April 2025, the Commission funded several non-governmental organisations (NGOs) active in Israel to the tune of almost EUR 12 million. Many of these organisations have publicly accused Israel of implementing racist policies and committing crimes against humanity, while being engaged in political actions aimed at challenging the Jewish State's legitimacy, putting pressure on foreign governments to recognise a Palestinian state, initiating legal proceedings against the State of Israel and its soldiers, and even calling for forms of insurrection against a democratically elected government. Funding these activities could amount to a form of foreign interference by the EU, with serious consequences for the State of Israel and its citizens.

Can the Commission:

1. ensure that none of these entities are fostering antisemitic discourse, denying the legitimacy of the State of Israel or calling for violence against it?
2. guarantee that no European subsidies are granted to NGOs linked to radical Islam and terrorist groups such as Hamas?
3. carry out a full audit of all subsidies granted to entities operating in Israel to ensure that the EU's funds are not used to support causes contrary to its values?

Submitted: 22.5.2025

**Answer given by Ms Šuica on behalf of the European Commission
(22 August 2025)**

The EU Financial Regulation provides that grant beneficiaries shall be excluded from EU funding, in case of 'incitement to discrimination, hatred and violence against a group of persons or a member of a group, or similar activities that are contrary to the values on which the Union is founded enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) where such misconduct has an impact on the person or entity's integrity which negatively affects or concretely risks affecting the performance of the legal commitment' ⁽¹⁾.

Specific clauses have been introduced in all grant contracts with beneficiaries managing EU funds in the occupied Palestinian territory and Israel.

Grant beneficiaries shall not engage in activities included in Article 1(1) of the Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA ⁽²⁾, which include incitement to violence or hatred.

This prohibition is without prejudice to the respect of fundamental rights including the right of freedom of expression as enshrined in Article 6 of the TEU ⁽³⁾.

According to the Council Common Position of 27 December 2001 ⁽⁴⁾, the Commission cannot fund individuals or entities involved in terrorism and listed in its Annex in the current consolidated version ⁽⁵⁾.

All Commission contracts involving EU funding worldwide contain provisions that no funds or economic resources are made available directly or indirectly to, or for the benefit of, any entities, individuals or groups of individuals designated by the EU as subject to the EU restrictive measures.

This includes, but it is not limited to, contractors, subcontractors, all natural persons linked to this contract, recipients of financial support to third parties.

Grant beneficiaries are systematically audited after they submit their narrative report, financial report and expenditure verification report (for grants of more than EUR 100 000).

⁽¹⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202402509.

⁽²⁾ Council Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA of 28 November 2008 on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law, OJ L 328, 6.12.2008, pp. 55-58, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32008F0913>.

⁽³⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/teu_2016/art_6/oj/eng.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32001E0931>.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02001E0931-20250201>.

The Commission will not hesitate to take appropriate measures if it establishes that any organisation has made inappropriate use of EU funds.
