

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002253/25
to the Commission
Wouter Beke (PPE)
(4 June 2025)**

Subject: Investigation into Israeli defence actors in Horizon Europe projects and a possible halting of cooperation

A recent investigation by several European news media outlets, including Belgian newspaper De Tijd, has revealed serious concerns about certain Israeli links to Horizon Europe. Cooperation between the EU and Israel does not appear to be as innocent as assumed: in several cases links have been identified with the Israeli Defence Ministry or defence-related companies.

With the Israeli Government and the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) violating human rights on an almost daily basis, it is all the more important that we dare to take an honest look at our research collaborations with institutions that may be complicit. We must not only strongly condemn the atrocities in Gaza, but must also put our money where our mouth is on this specific issue.

1. Does the Commission intend to further investigate and possibly halt projects involving Israeli actors, such as the Ministry of Defence or defence-related companies, now that they appear to be projects with potential dual-use applications?
2. How is the Commission specifically monitoring Article 16 of the Horizon Europe Regulation in the light of projects involving Israeli actors who may be suspected of being complicit in human rights violations?
3. How is the Commissioner working with the Vice-President/High Representative in the context of the current review of the EU-Israel Association Agreement, specifically with regard to research budgets?

Submitted: 4.6.2025

**Answer given by Ms Zaharieva on behalf of the European Commission
(24 September 2025)**

Under current Horizon Europe (HE) research related to dual-use products or technologies is not prohibited and it is not excluded that HE project results may potentially be developed outside the scope of the project, even if they were originally intended and funded for purely civil applications. This transition could happen beyond the lifetime of the project itself.

At project level, a number of safeguards have been established under HE to ensure EU funds are not used for activities that violate international law ⁽¹⁾.

Any measures would have to be based on the conduct of the beneficiary, not on the actions or behaviour of the State of Israel, which cannot be considered automatically attributable to its entities participating in HE grants.

At programme level, in view of the State of Israel's intervention in the Gaza Strip and the ensuing humanitarian catastrophe, the Commission considers that there is a case for a partial suspension of the Israeli's association to the HE programme following the High Representative review that concluded that there are indications that Israel would be in breach of its human rights obligations under Article 2 of the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement ⁽²⁾ that forms the basis for the Agreement on the Association of Israel to HE.

The partial suspension that the Commission has proposed to the Council ⁽³⁾, via an appropriate and proportionate measure, specifically concerns the participation of entities established in Israel in activities funded under the Accelerator of the European Innovation Council (EIC) ⁽⁴⁾.

The High Representative is the Vice-President of the Commission. The work of the College of Commissioners is fully carried out in accordance with the principle of collegiality ⁽⁵⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Proposals to be funded are evaluated by external independent experts and are subject to a self-assessment and an ethics review which may result in rejection or specific additional ethics related obligations. During the implementation phase, checks or reviews may be initiated at any time if ethical or other concerns emerge. Non-compliance may lead to any of the measures provided for in the grant agreement, including termination of the project.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 147, 21.6.2000, p. 3, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_international/2000/384/oj.

⁽³⁾ COM(2025) 620 final.

⁽⁴⁾ This would imply that legal entities established in Israel would no longer be eligible to participate in calls for grant and investment support under the Horizon Europe EIC Accelerator.

⁽⁵⁾ Article 17(6) of the Treaty on European Union (TEU).