

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002355/25
to the Commission
Thijs Reuten (S&D), Tineke Strik (Verts/ALE)
(11 June 2025)**

Subject: Unlawful use of Horizon Europe funds by Israeli entities

Investigative research by the investigative journalism platform Follow the Money has brought to light that more than EUR 3 billion has been allocated to Horizon Europe projects involving Israeli institutions since 2007. The research also concluded that Dutch universities are involved in at least 28 ongoing Horizon Europe projects developing technologies and products that could potentially also be used for military purposes — so-called dual-use products.

1. Can the Commission provide an overview of all Horizon Europe projects involving Israeli entities which are developing dual-use products and whether they fall within Article 1(2)(a), (b) or (c) of Regulation (EU) 2021/695?
2. How does the Commission verify that Horizon Europe projects (Article 1(2)(a) and (b)) with Israeli involvement comply with Regulation (EU) 2021/695, and in particular Articles 5, 7 and 19 regarding exclusive use for civilian purposes, protection of human rights and ethical principles?
3. Are there any known cases where the Commission or a research institution either suspected or concluded that technology or finished products were being used by Israel for military purposes, and specifically for military actions in violation of international law, and thus in breach of Regulations (EU) 2021/695 and (EU) 2021/697? What action has the Commission taken if such cases have indeed come to light?

Submitted: 11.6.2025

**Answer given by Ms Zaharieva on behalf of the European Commission
(21 October 2025)**

While research related to dual-use products or technologies is not prohibited, any research and innovation activities carried out under Horizon Europe must have an exclusive focus on civil applications.

When implementing the projects, all beneficiaries must ensure that all activities under the project comply with this rule as well as with ethical principles and relevant national, EU and international legislation. Horizon Europe projects' results ⁽¹⁾, may be developed into technologies with a dual-use potential, even if they were originally intended and funded for purely civil applications.

This transition could happen beyond the lifetime of the project itself. The Commission therefore cannot provide an overview of all projects that might have future results with dual use development.

Ethics screening is part of the evaluation process under Horizon Europe, and it is done by specific ethics evaluators ⁽²⁾. During the lifetime of a selected project, the continued compliance with the grant agreement is monitored by the Commission and its Agencies in charge of implementing Horizon Europe.

The Commission and its Agencies would review all reported cases which allegedly breach Horizon Europe rules. So far it has not been established that any activities under current projects involving Israeli entities breached the principle of exclusive focus on civil applications.

Article 2(2) of the Agreement on the association of Israel to Horizon Europe ⁽³⁾ sets out the principle that Israeli entities participate in the Horizon Europe programme under terms and conditions equivalent to those applicable to legal entities established in the EU.

While any actions of the State of Israel cannot be considered automatically attributable to Israeli entities participating in Horizon Europe, Israel needs to comply with Article 2 of the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement ⁽⁴⁾.

In the context of Israel's intervention in the Gaza Strip and the ensuing humanitarian catastrophe, the Commission has come to the conclusion that Israel is violating human rights and humanitarian law thus breaching Article 2 of the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement.

⁽¹⁾ Once the project is over.

⁽²⁾ The screening takes place after the main scientific evaluation and covers all the proposals selected for funding. Some of the projects also have additional ethics checks over the course of the project duration.

⁽³⁾ Agreement between the EU, of the one part, and Israel, of the other part, on the participation of Israel in the EU programme Horizon Europe — the framework Programme for Research and Innovation, OJ L 95, 23/03/2022.

⁽⁴⁾ 'Relations between the Parties, as well as all the provisions of the Agreement itself, shall be based on respect for human rights and democratic principles, which guides their internal and international policy and constitutes an essential element of this Agreement.'

Therefore, it has proposed to the Council to partially suspend the Horizon Europe Association Agreement with Israel so that legal entities established in Israel would not be eligible to participate in calls for grant and investment support under the Horizon Europe European Innovation Council Accelerator.

Furthermore, in her State of the Union Speech on 10 September 2025, the Commission President announced a further package of measures.
