

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002540/25
to the Commission**

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(24 June 2025)

Subject: EU funding of Israeli companies involved in the ongoing genocide in Palestine

Last October, we sent the European Commission Question for written answer E-001930/2024/rev.1 ⁽¹⁾ on support from the Horizon Europe programme for Israeli companies involved in the ongoing genocide in Palestine. In response, the Commission said it was unaware of such practices and reiterated that the funded projects were closely monitored and conditional on respect for human rights in accordance with Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement.

However, a recent investigation by journalists ⁽²⁾ has revealed that EUR 42 million from the European Defence Fund, as well as funds from seven other European countries, have been allocated to the ACTUS project. EUR 14 million of this funding were provided to a subsidiary of Israel Aerospace Industries, Israel's leading defence company, for building drones. This support is in addition to the millions of euros from the Horizon programme dedicated to military research involving Israeli ministries and military companies ⁽³⁾.

In light of the above:

1. Does the European Commission intend to condemn participation in the genocide in Gaza by Israeli companies receiving EU funds?
2. Does it plan to stop these companies from receiving EU financial support?
3. Will it propose suspending the EU-Israel Association Agreement to the Council, in order to fully respect human rights commitments?

Submitted: 24.6.2025

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

The Commission has not established so far that the activities under projects funded by the Horizon Europe (HE) programme have breached the principle of exclusive focus on civil applications.

During the lifetime of a project the continuing compliance with the rules is monitored by the Commission Executive Agencies in charge of implementing the programme.

With regard to the European Defense Fund (EDF), entities, private or public, established in Israel are not eligible under EDF. In cases where EU-established entities are controlled by non-associated third-country entities, safeguards such as security guarantees approved by the Member State in which they are established are imposed by the regulation ⁽¹⁾ and enforced to ensure that no sensitive information is unduly accessed or transferred to the controlling entity, and that the latter cannot use sensitive technology or results resulting from the EU-funded action ⁽²⁾.

Article 2(2) of the Agreement on the association of Israel to HE ⁽³⁾ sets out the principle that Israeli entities participate in the HE 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 HE, Israel needs to comply with Art. 2 of the Euro-Med Agreement ⁽⁴⁾.

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2024-001930_EN.html

² <https://disclose.ngo/fr/article/la-france-et-leurope-financent-sans-le-dire-lindustrie-militaire-israelienne>.

³ <https://www.lecho.be/economie-politique/europe/general/des-fonds-europeens-de-recherche-financent-la-defense-israelienne/10609758.html>.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/697 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing the European Defence Fund and repealing Regulation (EU) 2018/1092.

⁽²⁾ Projects carried out under EDF shall also comply with ethical principles also reflected in relevant EU, national and international laws. The ethical aspects of EDF funded projects are screened, and should any participant breach these conditions, there are mechanisms in place to ensure compliance, including the termination of grants and the recovery of funds.

⁽³⁾ Agreement between EU, of the one part, and Israel, of the other part, on the participation of Israel in the Union 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'.

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 Art. 2 of the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement.

Therefore, it has proposed to the Council to partially suspend the HE 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 HE 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, as the Commission considers that there is a case for the suspension of certain trade-related provisions of the EU-Israel Association Agreement. The Commission plans to implement additional measures such as putting on hold bilateral support to Israel.
