

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003642/25
to the Commission**

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(19 September 2025)

Subject: Israeli restrictions on international NGOs and GDPR adequacy decision

The Israeli Government has issued new registration rules for international humanitarian non-governmental organisations (NGO) operating in Gaza and the West Bank, requiring them to provide a multitude of personal data about their employees, as well as their family members, for screening and profiling purposes ⁽¹⁾. This undermines privacy principles and puts humanitarians' safety at risk.

29 governments and EU representatives, including VP/HR Kallas and Commissioners Šuica and Lahbib, have jointly warned that the new rules may force international NGOs to leave the Occupied Palestinian Territories imminently, further worsening the humanitarian situation on the ground ⁽²⁾.

The Dutch data protection authority has stated that the NGOs are forced to choose between violating the privacy rights of their employees under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and carrying out their work in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. It asked the Dutch Government to raise the issue with the Commission and to discuss 'how the registration requirement relates to the European Commission's adequacy decision on Israel' ⁽³⁾.

1. Does the Commission consider that the Israeli registration requirements violate the GDPR and the conditions for Israel's adequacy status?
2. Is the Commission pressing the Israeli Government and its Privacy Protection Authority to withdraw the registration requirements in order to retain the adequacy status?
3. Will it suspend the adequacy decision if Israel fails to comply?

Supporter ⁽⁴⁾

Submitted: 19.9.2025

Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(23 April 2026)

The Commission recognises that the new registration rules for international humanitarian non-governmental organisations ('INGOs') are a significant obstacle to their operations in Gaza.

The GDPR applies to the processing of personal data in the context of the activities of an establishment of a controller or processor in the EU.

The registration rules imposed by the Israeli government in Israel do not fall within the GDPR's scope of application. However, any processing of personal data by INGOs carried out to comply with these rules (e.g. data collection or sharing with Israeli authorities) may be covered by the GDPR, if and to the extent it is taking place in the EU. In this case, it is for the data protection authorities of the Member States to assess if such processing complies with the GDPR.

Monitoring the functioning of adequacy decisions under Article 45(4) of the GDPR is a continuous and comprehensive process, which in practice means that the Commission is following developments relevant for an adequacy finding.

The legal framework gives the Commission the tools to react if the level of protection would weaken, including the possibility to propose the amendment, suspension or repeal of an adequacy decision.

¹ https://www.gov.il/en/pages/interministerial_team_registration_humanitarian_organisations_foreign_employees.

² https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/joint-statement-aid-gaza-and-restrictions-facing-ngos_en.

³ <https://www.autoriteitpersoonsgegevens.nl/en/current/ap-aid-organisations-cornered-due-to-israeli-requirement-to-provide-personal-data>.

⁴ This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Cristina Guarda (Verts/ALE)