

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003892/25
to the Commission
Marc Botenga (The Left)
(3 October 2025)**

Subject: Follow-up on claims by the Commission regarding the funding of dual-use technologies under Horizon Europe

In its February 2025 answer ⁽¹⁾ to Written Question E-001930/2024 ⁽²⁾, the Commission claims that any research and innovation activities carried out under Horizon Europe must have ‘an exclusive focus on civil applications’, as set forth in the Horizon Europe Regulation ⁽³⁾.

However, in July 2025, the Commission proposed partially suspending Israel’s participation in Horizon Europe. According to the Commission, this would affect ‘the participation of Israeli entities in the European Innovation Council Accelerator, which targets start-ups and small businesses with disruptive innovations and emerging technologies that have potential dual-use applications, such as in cybersecurity, drones, and artificial intelligence’ ⁽⁴⁾. This implies some activities funded under Horizon Europe do not have ‘an exclusive focus on civil applications’.

1. Was the Commission aware in February 2025 that some activities under Horizon Europe were funding ‘dual-use’ applications? If not, why not?
2. If the Commission was aware, why did it claim that research and innovation activities carried out under Horizon Europe had ‘an exclusive focus on civil applications’?
3. As the Commission claimed that research and innovation activities under Horizon Europe must have ‘an exclusive focus on civil applications’, does it consider the funding of dual use activities a violation of the Horizon Europe Regulation?

Submitted: 3.10.2025

**Answer given by Ms Zaharieva on behalf of the European Commission
(12 December 2025)**

As confirmed in the answer to Written Question E-001930/2024, any research and innovation activities carried out under Horizon Europe must have an exclusive focus on civil applications ⁽¹⁾.

This means that, while the activities may involve dual-use related technologies or products ⁽²⁾, the focus of the activities must be exclusively civil.

On this basis, the Commission does not consider that funding research and innovation activities with a dual-use potential, when the exclusive focus is on civil applications in line with Article 7(1) of the Horizon Europe Regulation, constitutes a violation thereof.

The Commission proposal ⁽³⁾ to partially suspend the application of the Agreement on the Association of Israel to Horizon Europe ⁽⁴⁾ with regard to calls for grant and investment support under the Accelerator part of the European Innovation Council (EIC) should not be interpreted in any way as implying that any activities funded by Horizon Europe may have departed from the principle of an exclusive civil focus.

The reasons for the Commission proposal were different and described in the proposal and its explanatory memorandum.

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

² https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2024-001930_EN.html.

³ Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe — the framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013 (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, pp. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/695/oj> (<http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/695/oj>)).

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_1921.

⁽¹⁾ Article 7(1) Horizon Europe Regulation <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/695/2024-03-01>.

⁽²⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/guidance-note-research-focusing-exclusively-on-civil-applications_he_en.pdf.

⁽³⁾ COM(2025) 620 final <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52025PC0620>.

⁽⁴⁾ Agreement between the European Union, 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 [http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/2022/323\(10\)/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/2022/323(10)/oj).