(English version)

Question for written answer E-004869/25
to the Commission

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(9 December 2025)

Subject: Participation of Israel in the Horizon Europe programme

Despite well-documented human rights violations over decades, Israel enjoys privileged access to the EU research programmes including Horizon Europe. Since 7 October 2023, EUR 126 million was allocated to 130 new projects involving Israeli partners ([1]). The report of UN Special Rapporteur Albanese in June 2025 states that Horizon Europe 'actively facilitates collaboration with Israeli institutions, including those complicit in apartheid and genocide' ([2]). Thousands of European academics have called for Israel's status as an associated country in Horizon Europe to be revoked ([3]).

1. In July 2025, the Commission proposed a partial suspension of Israel's association to Horizon Europe. Is this suspension still being proposed by the Commission?

2. Does the Commission intend to invoke Article 14 of the Horizon Model Grant Agreement to suspend the participation of Israeli entities in Horizon consortia, and all associated payments, as it did with Russian entities in 2022 for violations of human-rights standards and international law?

3. Will Israel's status as an associated country be revoked for the next period of the Horizon Europe programme?

Submitted: 9.12.2025

Answer given by Ms Zaharieva on behalf of the European Commission
(7 April 2026)

1. As the Commission has not withdrawn or amended its proposal ([1]), the proposed partial suspension of Israel's association agreement to Horizon Europe ([2]) is still on the table.

2. With regard to the reliance on Article 14 of the model Horizon Europe Grant Agreement ([3]), the Commission will take appropriate measures as needed provided that non-compliance could be established in the context of the particular grant. However, Israeli beneficiaries cannot be considered in breach of Article 14 simply by being established in Israel. Any measures must be based on the conduct of the beneficiary, not on the actions or behaviour of the State of Israel. Moreover, no comparison should be made with measures taken after the illegal invasion of Russia in Ukraine, where targeted EU restrictive measures were adopted under Article 29 of the Treaty on European Union and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, notably Council Decision 2014/512/CFSP and Council Regulation (EU) No 833/2014. As regards Israeli entities, there are no EU restrictive measures in place keeping in mind these sanctions.

3. With regard to the possible status of Israel vis-à-vis the next Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, as the interinstitutional negotiations on the next Multiannual Financial Framework's basic acts are ongoing and no agreement has been reached by the co-legislators notably on the Horizon Europe 2028- 2034 ([4]), including on the terms and conditions for future participation of third countries in the Programme, no definitive reply to this question can be given at this stage.

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1 https://www.tni.org/en/publication/partners-in-crime-EU-complicity-Israel-genocide-Gaza.
2 https://www.un.org/unispal/document/a-hrc-59-23-from-economy-of-occupation-to-economy-of-genocide-report-special-rapporteur-francesca-albanese-palestine-2025/.
3 https://aurdip.org/en/stop-european-funding-for-israeli-institutions-stop-complicity-in-occupation-apartheid-and-genocide/.
([1]) COM(2025) 620 final, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:52025PC0620.
([2]) 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, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:22022A0323(10)&qid=1764159710053.
([3]) https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga_horizon-euratom_en.pdf.
([4]) COM(2025) 543 final/2, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52025PC0543R(01).