

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000824/26
to the Commission**

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(27 February 2026)

Subject: Omnibus package and EU-Israel Association Agreement

Following the Omnibus package, five key EU programmes, including Horizon Europe and the European Defence Fund, will be amended, allowing EU funding for dual-use and defence companies. Major Israeli defence contractors like Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) and Rafael Advanced Defense Systems have received millions in EU funds for projects with civil applications, such as crisis response drone platforms or underwater security systems.

According to an article in the press, dated June 2025 (¹), IAI, which received around EUR 10 million from Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe between 2014 and 2025, also plays a leading role in a European Defence Fund project to develop drone technologies for weapon integration of European military capability.

Given the serious allegations of human rights, international law and international humanitarian law violations by Israel, as well as the current position of the International Court of Justice on the genocidal intent of Israel:

¹ Maggiore, M., Minano, L. and Maltepioti, K., 'European Defence Fund millions benefiting Israeli state-owned drone manufacturer', *EUobserver*, 11 June 2025.

1. Will there be any restrictions on the participation of Israeli companies in dual-use and defence activities under the European Innovation Council?
2. If not, what safeguards will the Commission put in place to avoid any breach of Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement?

Submitted: 27.2.2026

Answer given by Ms Zaharieva on behalf of the European Commission
(1 June 2026)

1. Article 48(2) of the Horizon Europe Regulation, as recently amended ⁽¹⁾, sets out the eligibility conditions and restrictions under the European Innovation Council Accelerator that apply regarding support for innovation in critical defence technologies as well as regarding support for potential dual-use applications:

- Regarding support for critical defence technologies, the participation is limited to legal entities established in the EU, in Ukraine or in a European Economic Area (EEA) member associated to Horizon Europe ⁽²⁾. Therefore, legal entities established in Israel are not eligible to participate.
- Regarding support for dual-use applications, the work programme may limit the participation to legal entities established in Member States or to legal entities established in specified associated countries in addition to Member States ⁽³⁾.

2. In case the State of Israel would in future not respect its obligations under Article 2 of the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement ⁽⁴⁾, the Commission has the prerogative to propose appropriate and proportionate measures, as it did in July 2025 ⁽⁵⁾. In this respect, as the Council has not taken a decision yet on the Commission proposal to partially suspend the application of the Horizon Europe Association Agreement with Israel, the Agreement remains applicable in full.

Any Horizon Europe action must comply with ethical principles and respect relevant EU, national and international law ⁽⁶⁾. For Israeli entities, specific eligibility criteria related to the place of establishment or activities continue to apply ⁽⁷⁾.

⁽¹⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202502653.

⁽²⁾ Furthermore, legal entities that are directly or indirectly controlled by a third country other than Ukraine or an EEA member associated to Horizon Europe (such as Israel), or by legal entities of such a third country, are excluded from participation unless a guarantee is provided that support for the legal entity would not contravene the security and defence interests of the EU and its Member States, as established in the framework of the common foreign and security policy pursuant to Title V of the Treaty on European Union, including respect for the principle of good neighbourly relations. The guarantees must be approved in accordance with the national procedures of the Member State or the EEA member associated to Horizon Europe in which the legal entity is established.

⁽³⁾ For duly justified and exceptional reasons, in order to guarantee the protection of the strategic interests of the EU and its Member States, the work programme may also exclude the participation of legal entities established in the EU or in associated countries directly or indirectly controlled by non-associated third countries or by legal entities of non-associated third countries from individual calls for proposals, or make their participation subject to conditions set out in the work programme.

⁽⁴⁾ Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the State of Israel, of the other part [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02000A0621\(01\)-20130701](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02000A0621(01)-20130701).

⁽⁵⁾ COM(2025) 620 final, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52025PC0620>.

⁽⁶⁾ As per Article 19 of the Horizon Europe Regulation.

⁽⁷⁾ Guidelines on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards, OJ/C 205/05 of 19.07.2013, [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52013XC0719\(03\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52013XC0719(03)).