

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000847/26
to the Commission**

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(2 March 2026)

Subject: Nuclear technology and Horizon Europe

The European Innovation Council (EIC) Accelerator programme is the only part of Horizon Europe that supports research on nuclear technology and its use.

According to the Council of the EU, the omnibus package will amend five key EU programmes, including Horizon Europe and the European Defence Fund, in order to provide ‘more support for dual-use and defence companies’ ⁽¹⁾. Israel is one of the countries considered to be an ‘associated country’ in Horizon Europe and is actively participating in European Defence Fund projects. It is treated like an EU Member State as regards eligibility.

Sightec, a manufacturer of AI navigation technology for drones, received almost EUR 2.5 million from the EU. Its CEO, Roy Shmuel, stated on LinkedIn that Sightec technology was ‘combat-proven and deployed on over 3 000 drones in critical missions’ ⁽²⁾, publicly admitting that this technology is also used for military purposes.

Nevertheless, Israel is not a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty or Euratom.

Given these facts, what measures is the Commission taking to manage proliferation risks associated with Israel’s development of nuclear technology and materials?

Submitted: 2.3.2026

Answer given by Ms Zaharieva on behalf of the European Commission
(28 May 2026)

Nuclear activities that contribute to the achievement of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) ⁽¹⁾ objectives can be funded under the TFEU where the Euratom Treaty ⁽²⁾ does not lay down exhaustive or specific rules. This is the case for the European Innovation Council (EIC).

As set out in Article 19(1) of the Horizon Europe (HE) Regulation ⁽³⁾, any action carried out under the HE programme must comply with ethical principles and relevant EU, national and international law, including the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights ⁽⁴⁾ and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and its Supplementary Protocols ⁽⁵⁾.

Export control of dual use items in the EU ⁽⁶⁾ is based on a common list of dual-use items ⁽⁷⁾ that must be controlled in all Member States ⁽⁸⁾. From the description of the AUTOFLY project coordinated by Sightec, there is no mention of nuclear materials or technologies being involved.

Article 48(2) of the HE Regulation, as recently amended ⁽⁹⁾, sets out the eligibility conditions and restrictions under the EIC Accelerator that apply for support for innovation in critical defence technologies and may be applied for support for applications with potential dual-use.

Sightec applied successfully for EIC blended finance support in 2021 and received the grant support but was rejected for the equity investment ⁽¹⁰⁾, so there is no ongoing investment in the company.

Regarding the statement by Sightec’s CEO pointing to dual use, it should be noted that the HE legal base, at the time, specified that activities supported had to be exclusively civilian ⁽¹¹⁾.

¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/12/18/council-adopts-measures-to-incentivise-and-simplify-defence-investments-in-the-eu/>.

² https://www.linkedin.com/posts/roy-shmuel-78324b6_gpsfree-visualnavigation-electronicwarfare-activity-7362144414355374082-huua.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX%3A12012E%2FTXT>.

⁽²⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/resources/publications/euratom-treaty/>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02021R0695-20251224>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://fra.europa.eu/en/eu-charter>.

⁽⁵⁾ https://www.echr.coe.int/documents/d/echr/Convention_ENG.

⁽⁶⁾ Dual-Use Regulation 2021/821.

⁽⁷⁾ ‘EU control list’.

⁽⁸⁾ Any action that would not respect non-proliferation would be in clear violation of the above and appropriate measures would be taken.

⁽⁹⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202502653.

⁽¹⁰⁾ In line with the EIC Fund’s investment guidelines.

⁽¹¹⁾ This does not exclude that subsequent developments of the technologies could have dual use.

In addition, the European Defence Fund (EDF) has strict eligibility conditions for participation ⁽¹²⁾. Israel is not associated to the EDF and it is therefore excluded from participation.

⁽¹²⁾ As a general rule, participating entities must be established in the EU or an associated third country (currently Norway and soon Ukraine), have their executive management structures in the EU or an associated third country, and not be controlled by a non-associated third country.