

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002658/26
to the Commission
Marc Botenga (The Left)
(26 June 2026)**

Subject: Suspension of cooperation and payments or termination of Israeli participation in Horizon Europe

The Commission states that the framework governing Horizon Europe cooperation with Israeli and Russian entities differs, *inter alia*, because, unlike Russia, Israel has an association agreement with the EU ⁽¹⁾.

The 2008 Protocol to the 1995 Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreement ⁽²⁾ allows Israel to participate in Community programmes open to it ⁽³⁾. However, the 2022 agreement on the participation of Israel in Horizon Europe between the EU represented by the Commission, and Israel, also provides that either party may terminate the agreement at any time by written notification ⁽⁴⁾.

A 2017 legal opinion by the Director-General of the Commission's Legal Service found that the EU was legally entitled to suspend research cooperation with Israel ⁽⁵⁾. A 2025 formal review of Israel's compliance with the 1995 agreement also confirmed indications that Israel had breached Article 2 thereof.

1. What prevents the Commission from invoking the termination clause in Article 9.4 of the 2022 agreement on the participation of Israel in Horizon Europe?
2. Does the Commission consider that within this framework it has the competence to adopt interim measures such as the suspension of new grant agreements and payment flows, analogous to those applied to Russian entities in March 2022?
3. If not, which legal provision explains why such measures could be applied to Russian entities but not to Israeli entities?

Submitted: 26.6.2026

**Answer given by Ms Zaharieva on behalf of the European Commission
(5 October 2026)**

1. In line with Article 79 of the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement ⁽¹⁾, the Commission responded to the breach by the State of Israel of its obligations under Article 2 of the latter in a way considered to be most proportionate. On 28 July 2025, the Commission proposed the partial suspension of the agreement associating Israel to Horizon Europe ⁽²⁾ in accordance with the procedure set out under Article 218(9) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

2. Any steps concerning the participation of specific beneficiaries in Horizon Europe grants must be based on the legal framework applicable to them. For Russian entities, a case-by-case assessment was necessary to identify the concerned grants and the restrictive measures applicable to each Russian entity. For Israeli entities, for as long as the association agreement fully applies, any steps related to their participation in Horizon Europe grants as entities established in an associated country must be taken in compliance with the grant agreement's provisions and in line also with the Guidelines on the eligibility of Israeli entities ⁽³⁾.

3. Such measures were consequent, in relation to Russian entities, to the Council of the European Union adopting several relevant restrictive measures, following the European Council Conclusions of 24 February 2022 ⁽⁴⁾ such as a ban on providing to Russian entities any direct or indirect support, including financing and financial assistance, under a Union programme ⁽⁵⁾. As regards Israeli entities, there are no such measures currently in place, while certain Israeli individuals and entities are subject to an asset freeze and a prohibition to make funds or economic resources available to them.

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-004664-ASW_EN.html.

² https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/asso_agree_en.pdf.

³ [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:22008A0517\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:22008A0517(01)).

⁴ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv%3AOJ.L._2022.095.01.0143.01.ENG&toc=OJ%3AL%3A2022%3A095%3ATOC.

⁵ <https://euobserver.com/221434/strictly-confidential-eu-entitled-to-suspend-israel-pact-due-to-west-bank-aggression-its-top-lawyer-said/>.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2000:147:FULL>.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52025PC0620>.

⁽³⁾ 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) 2013 205/05).

⁽⁴⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/54495/st00018-en22.pdf>.

⁽⁵⁾ See Article 51 of Council Regulation (EU) No 833/2014.