

EN

E-002660/2026

Answer given by Ms Zaharieva
on behalf of the European Commission
(5.10.2026)

1. While the Commission recognises the breach of human rights by the State of Israel, the Commission stands by its position that actions or behaviour of the State of Israel cannot be considered automatically attributable to Israeli entities participating in Horizon Europe grants. As long as the agreement¹ associating Israel to Horizon Europe remains fully applicable, Israeli entities remain eligible to participate on this basis and any termination based solely on nationality grounds would amount to discrimination prohibited under this agreement. Notwithstanding, any established breach of the applicable Horizon Europe rules by a particular entity may give rise to any of the contractual measures as foreseen in the Horizon Europe model grant agreement that are to be determined taking due account of the seriousness of the breach and their proportionality towards addressing this.

2. In proposing the partial suspension of the agreement associating Israel to Horizon Europe², the Commission responded to the breach by the State of Israel of its obligations under Article 2 of the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement³ in a way considered to be proportionate. In particular, in line with its Article 79, stating ‘In the selection of measures, priority shall be given to those which least disturb the functioning of the Agreement’.

As a consequence of the breach by the State of Israel of its obligations under Article 2 of the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement, the Commission has also proposed sanctions on extremist ministers of the Israeli government and a suspension of trade concessions with Israel, while halting bilateral support.

¹ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv%3AOJ.L_.2022.095.01.0143.01.ENG&toc=OJ%3AL%3A2022%3A095%3ATO C.

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

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02000A0621%2801%29-20130701>.