



Maria de Graca Carvalho  
Committee for Industry, Research and Energy

24 May 2012

Dear Ms. de Graca Carvalho,

We are writing to express our concerns about the possible participation by Israeli companies or bodies in the Horizon 2020 research programme.

Firstly, are companies or bodies that manufacture, mine, farm or undertake research in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, or provide weaponry or technology to the occupation forces. Participation by such organisations would be contrary to the European Union's own principles. The Treaty of the European Union refers to the obligation of the Union to "ensure consistency between the areas of its external action". The Foreign Affairs Council has firmly condemned Israel's policies and practices that violate international law, as expressed both by its Conclusions in 2009 and on 14 May 2012. The revised European Neighbourhood Policy (2011) incorporates the principle that "Relations between the Parties, as well as all the provisions of the Agreement itself, shall be based on respect for human rights and democratic principles, which guides their internal and international policy and constitutes an essential element of this Agreement".

More generally, the TEU, as amended by the Lisbon Treaty, now provides expressly that the EU contributes to "the strict observance of and the development of international law, and in particular of the principles of the UN Charter." This includes support for advisory opinions of the International Court of Justice, since that is the principal judicial organ of the UN.

Secondly, and politically fundamental, is the issue of upgrades or enhancements of any kind to Israel's relationship with the EU. We know some MEPs believe that trade and technical issues, such as Horizon 2020, should be kept separate from political issues, but we believe that is unrealistic. The current Israeli government's obdurate refusal to commit to negotiate on the basis of the 4th June '67 borders and its obvious intention to continue expanding settlements - both within and beyond the big settlements near the Green Line - make it perfectly plain that its true motives are to retain much of the West Bank and its land and water resources, and to keep all or most of Jerusalem. MEPs should also realize that the current government is following the expansionist policies of all Israeli governments since 1967, but more overtly and with much less concern for international opinion.

It is self-evident from past behaviour that granting further benefits to Israel will only encourage Israeli governments to think they can continue on their present path and simultaneously enjoy growing benefits from the European Union. Disapproving statements by the High Representative will have no effect either, just as they haven't in the past. The continuation of the occupation will lead to ever greater danger of large-scale regional conflict. The appearance of tacit complicity by the EU will lead to growing security risks in EU countries, and to the risk of de-stabilising relations with Muslim countries and consequent energy supply and price risks to Europe.

The issues for MEPs are therefore whether they actually want to influence Israel to change course, and whether they want the EU to be seen to be doing so. If they do, then they have to apply conditionality to Israel by withholding any further benefits until Israel accepts the internationally legitimate parameters for ending the occupation. For all of these reasons, we urge you to recommend that Israeli companies do not participate in Horizon 2020 at the present time. At the least, organisations that support the occupation or are active in settlements should not be allowed to participate.

Yours sincerely,

Dror Feiler, *Chair, EJJF and Judar for Israelisk-Palestinsk Fred (Stockholm); Board Member, EJJF Foundation*

Arthur Goodman, *Parliamentary and Diplomatic Officer, Jews for Justice for Palestinians (London)*

Max Wieselmann, *Board Member, EJJF Foundation; Director, Een Ander Joods Geluid (Amsterdam)*

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