

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



THE DIRECTOR

MD.IV.A: North Africa, Middle East, Arabian Peninsula, Iran
and Iraq

Brussels,
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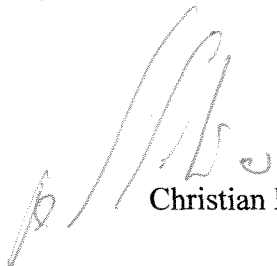
Dear Petitioners,

Thank you for your letter dated 13 August 2014 addressed to the High Representative, Catherine Ashton, regarding the participation of Israeli entities in Horizon 2020.

Israel has been associated to EU Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development since 1997. Israeli research entities are entitled to participate with the same rights and obligations as research entities from the EU member states under the conditions established under the relevant EU legislation. All research activities to be funded under the Horizon 2020 are aimed exclusively for civilian purposes and applications, including research in the security and transport themes.

All projects received will be submitted to an eligibility screening and then evaluated and ranked by panels of independent experts. An overlap between civil and military use cannot be generally excluded when the calls for proposals are published. However, once a project is selected for funding, it is subject to the Ethics Appraisal Procedure, which concerns all activities funded in Horizon 2020, and includes the Ethics Review Procedure, conducted before the start of the project, as well as the Ethics Checks and Audits during the project.

As regards the 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, these do not concern the nature of the grants, prizes and financial instruments, but only their geographical scope. The guidelines therefore aim at limiting EU funding within the pre-1967 borders of Israel.


Christian BERGER