

EN
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Answer given by Mr Moedas
on behalf of the European Commission
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In its programming and in project implementation, the European Commission applies the values of liberty, democracy, the universality and indivisibility of, and respect for, human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the principles of equality and the rule of law as well as the European Union's commitments under international law¹. Reference to the principles of the *Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union* and the *European Convention on Human Rights and its Supplementary Protocols* is made in the Horizon 2020 Regulation².

Israel's participation in Horizon 2020³ is governed by the Agreement between the EU and the State of Israel on the participation of the State of Israel in Horizon 2020.

Horizon 2020 funded actions must be in conformity with the applicable legal obligations including relevant international law. Furthermore, in accordance with Article 19(2) of Regulation (EU) 1291/2013² research and innovation activities carried out under Horizon 2020 must have an exclusive focus on civil applications.

As to the European Defence Fund, the European Commission has proposed to open it only to European Free Trade Association (EFTA)⁴ countries members of the European Economic Association (EEA)⁵. As a consequence, entities from these countries may be eligible for funding. This is already the case for the Preparatory Action for Defence Research where Norwegian entities are eligible.

Transparency, public scrutiny and democratic control over EU research programmes is ensured throughout the budgetary procedure and the discharge procedure. The European Parliament shares the power to decide on the annual budget with the Council.

¹ For instance, Article 1(4) of Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument (OJ 77/27 of 15 March 2014)

² Article 19(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1291/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing Horizon 2020 (OJ 347/104 of 20 December 2013)

³ The EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)

⁴ <http://www.efta.int/>

⁵ <http://www.efta.int/eea>