

**Question for written answer E-001197/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Breaches of EU guidelines – EU funding of Israeli entities in the occupied Palestinian territory

According to the EU 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 onwards¹, only Israeli entities not established and not carrying out funded activities in the occupied Palestinian territory (OPT) are eligible for EU grants.

Ariel University (AU), which is based in the illegal Israeli settlement of Ariel in the occupied Palestinian West Bank, is nevertheless listed as a 'Stakeholder in Israel' in the Horizon-2020-funded project BOUNCE². AU hosted an information event for the project and one of its professors is listed as a co-researcher and member of the BOUNCE team, which is a breach of the afore-mentioned EU guidelines.

While AU was, however, recently removed from the stakeholder database for the EU-funded project GEO-CRADLE, other Israeli settlement entities are involved in the project and carry out related activities.

1. What measures will the Commission take to prevent repeated transgressions of the EU's obligations and position of non-recognition of Israeli sovereignty over the OPT in EU-funded research projects?
2. Will its services demand an ethics check or audit for the project to assess its compliance with the guidelines?
3. Will it incorporate a reference to these EU obligations and positions in the ethics appraisal procedure for Israeli entities under the Horizon Europe framework?

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/guidelines_on_the_eligibility_of_israeli_entities_and_their_activities_in_the_territories_occupied_by_israel_since_june_1967.pdf

² <https://www.bounce-project.eu/news/bounce-dissemination-event-on-june-16-2020/>