

**Question for written answer E-002075/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Salima Yenbou (Renew)

Subject: Erasmus+ in Palestine and new Israeli restrictions

Israel has announced a new restrictive policy on the entry and stay of foreigners in the West Bank, covering spouses, employees, and other visitors. The new rules include strict quotas on the number of foreign students (150) and lecturers (100) allowed at Palestinian universities for restricted periods of time and subject to further conditions. In addition to harming Palestinian education and academic exchanges, the new rules risk obstructing the EU's Erasmus+ programme. Under Erasmus+, 366 students and staff moved to Palestinian universities from Europe in 2020 alone, greatly exceeding these new quotas¹. The new rules are expected to take effect on 5 July 2022.

1. What is the Commission's assessment of the impact of the new Israeli rules, in particular on Erasmus+?
2. What is the Commission doing to prevent the implementation of these new rules and their negative impact on the programme, students and lecturers?
3. Will it take any extra steps similar to those announced in support of academic exchanges with Ukraine² to support students and lecturers who may be affected by the restrictions?

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/assets/eac/erasmus-plus/factsheets/neighbourhood/palestine_erasmusplus_2020.pdf

² https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/de/STATEMENT_22_1529