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Answer given by Vice-President Mogherini  
on behalf of the Commission  
(15.4.2016)

The participation of Israeli entities in Horizon 2020 is subject to compliance with, 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' adopted in June 2013. While the guidelines regulate the place of establishment and the place where the project activities are carried out, they do not cover issues such as the nature of the participating entities (entities performing military or defence activities are not excluded from participation). There is no legal basis to exclude entities/project partners if they carry out military activities outside Horizon 2020 actions. In this context, the activities of the Israeli entities, taking place outside the concrete Horizon 2020 projected activities, are not covered by the Guidelines.

In addition, article 19(2) of Horizon 2020 Regulation highlights that all activities carried out must have an exclusive focus on civil applications. Several mechanisms have been put in place to prevent that EU funds are used for activities that could be contrary to international law and human rights valuations, including ethical evaluation by independent experts of the project proposals and an assessment of the possible dual-use in compliance with applicable EU, national and international legislation, including the European Charter of Fundamental Rights.

The Common Messages aimed at raising awareness regarding involvement in financial and economic activities in the settlements concern a different matter, as they address the potential legal and economic risks stemming from operating in settlements.