

**Question for written answer E-007076/2012
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Israel, the occupied territories and rules for participation in Horizon 2020

The rules for participation under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) and previous framework programmes obliged the Commission not to authorise the participation of entities established under Israel's national law in the territories occupied by Israel since they were not legal entities created under the national law of their place of establishment¹. This obligation appears to have been removed with the deletion of the phrase 'created under the national law of its place of establishment' from the definition of a 'legal entity' in the Horizon 2020 rules for participation proposed by the Commission.

Would entities established under Israel's national law in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967 qualify as 'legal entities' according to the simplified definition of a 'legal entity' incorporated in the draft rules for participation in Horizon 2020 proposed by the Commission?

Would they therefore be eligible to participate in Horizon 2020 programmes and projects?

Will the Commission therefore no longer be obliged not to authorise the participation of such entities?

Under previous framework programmes, and under FP7, the Commission has approved and funded activities carried out in Israeli settlements². It has said that it knows of no provision of EU law that obliges it not to fund such activities³. Is it true that the rules for participation for Horizon 2020 as proposed by the Commission also place no such obligation on it?

¹ Article 2: 'Definitions.. 1) 'legal entity' means any natural person, or any legal person created under the national law of its place of establishment, or under Community law or international law'.

² With regard to one such case, the Commission offered the following explanation: 'Ahava Dead Sea Laboratories is an entity that is formally established within the borders of the internationally recognised State of Israel. The participation condition of being established in a certain territory does not oblige a beneficiary to carry out the funded research in the place of its establishment. Consequently, Ahava Dead Sea Laboratories were and are eligible for participation and funding under the above Framework Programmes.' - Answer of 19 July 2011 to written question P-006190/2011.

³ 'Finally, the Commission is not aware of any provision of EC law that obliges it not to fund activities under an FP7 project carried out in Israeli settlements that have been established in occupied territories.' - Answer of 26 August 2011 to written question E-007464/2011.