

13 July 2025

To : Ekaterina Zaharieva
Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation

cc : Mark Botenga, MEP

Andreas Schwarz, Head of Cabinet

Sophie Alexandrova, Deputy Head of Cabinet

Dear Ms. Zaharieva,
Dear Mr. Schwarz and Ms. Alexandrova

We acknowledge that the meeting scheduled for Friday, July 11th, at 3:30 pm. has been cancelled and that other dates have been suggested. While we are looking forward to a meeting in September, in view of the urgency of the matter, and specifically the meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council in Brussels on July 15, we have decided to send you immediately the main points we wanted to discuss last Friday, in the hope you can share them with the Council.

We recall that the European Council « *takes note of the report on Israel's compliance with **Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement** and invites the (Foreign Affairs) Council to continue discussions on a follow-up, as appropriate, in July 2025, taking into account the evolution of the situation on the ground* ». Israel's lack of compliance with Article 2 will be commented upon in the following letters. As for the situation on the ground, it is nothing short of apocalyptic, as even a cursory look at whatever information comes out of Gaza will attest, with millions being starved and shot in a devastated landscape.

This is an introductory letter, so I will keep it brief, with two remarks.

The first point is that, apart from the moral and ethical implications of enabling a genocide by supporting the institutions of the perpetrator state, there are also judicial and legal consequences. There is a case pending at the ICJ against Israel under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the ICC has issued arrest warrants against the current Israeli prime minister and former Israeli minister of defence for war crimes and crimes against humanity, including using « starvation as a method of warfare », and the ICJ has issued an advisory opinion on the Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem. The Association Agreement closely links the EU with Israel, and it is difficult to believe that these legal cases will run their course without the EU being involved, meaning that EU officials may face criminal charges of complicity in genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. This is the reason why so many European universities have suspended their cooperation programmes with Israeli universities.

The second point is that it has become very difficult to understand what the EU now stands for. As Europeans, we used to believe that the EU stood for the rule of law and democracy. The unflinching support the EU gives to Israel makes a mockery of this pretension. Israel illegally occupies and colonizes Palestinian land, it disregards the rulings of the ICJ, it discriminates against its Muslim citizens, and now there is every evidence that it is conducting genocide in Gaza. While the EU reacted immediately to the Russian attack against Ukraine, and has implemented increasingly

stringent sanctions against Russia for the past three years, it has let Israel implement genocidal policies in Gaza for almost two years without lifting a finger. We as academics witness the consequences of this double standard every day. Europeans have lost the moral high ground, and since the technological and economic gaps with Asia, Africa, and Central and South America have closed long ago, there is diminishing interest in European science and education. The flow of education and research has reversed: it is our own students and researchers who are now going abroad, not to the US, but to the BRICS countries. We are now as popular in these countries as Israel is.

In the hope that you can take appropriate action to redress the disastrous course of affairs,

With best regards

On behalf of the European Coordination of Committees and Associations for Palestine (ECCP)

Ivar Ekeland

Vice-president, AURDIP

Former President, the University of Paris-Dauphine

Member of the Academia Europea

Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada

Foreign member, the Academies of Science of Norway, Palestine and Austria