

*H.E. Mr. António Costa, President of the European Council,
H.E. Mrs. Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission,
H.E. Mrs. Roberta Metsola, President of the European Parliament,*

Subject: On the ban on lists and candidates for the parliamentary elections in Israel on October 27, 2026

We address Your Excellencies to express our profound concern and repudiation regarding the decision of the Central Elections Committee of Israel, of September 23, 2026, which determined the non-acceptance of the Joint List (made up by the Hadash/Jabha, Balad/Tajammu' and Ta'al parties) and of the United Arab List (Ra'am). At the same time, the Central Elections Committee had already banned Ofer Cassif, Hadash Member of Parliament, and Sami Abu Shehadeh, President of Balad, from being candidates in the elections for the Israeli parliament – the Knesset – scheduled for October 27, 2026.

These decisions occur within a context of growing repression and attempts to silence the voices in Israel that denounce the policy of genocide of the Palestinian people, of violence and settlement expansion in the illegally occupied Palestinian territories, and of the systematic violation of international law by Israel.

These anti-democratic decisions seek to prevent the political representation of a significant portion of the citizens and undermine fundamental political rights, such as the right to participate in elections, to run for office, and to freely choose their representatives.

The Association Agreement between the European Union and the State of Israel, in its Article 2, determines: *"Relations between the Parties, as well as all the provisions of the Agreement itself, shall be based on respect for human rights and democratic principles, which guides their internal and international policy and constitutes an essential element of this Agreement."*

In light of the above, we request:

- A clear condemnation of the ban on the participation in the Israeli parliamentary elections of the Joint List and the United Arab List, as well as of Ofer Cassif and Sami Abu Shehadeh, and the demand that these anti-democratic decisions be revoked;
- The demand, within the framework of the EU's relations with the State of Israel, for full respect by Israel of democratic principles, including the right to political participation for all citizens;
- The immediate suspension of the EU-Israel Association Agreement, based on Article 2 of that agreement, considering the grave violations of human rights and international law by the State of Israel.

A condemnation, demands, and a measure that are fully justified, alongside with: the suspension of the participation of Israeli entities in EU programs that may contribute directly or indirectly to military activities or to the maintenance of the occupation, namely the Horizon Europe program; the adoption of urgent, immediate, and concrete actions to ensure the entry of humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip and respect for international humanitarian law; the recognition by the EU and the demand for the realization of the State of Palestine, as determined by the relevant United Nations resolutions.

The Members of the European Parliament,

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Anthony Smith
Arash Saeidi
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