



Brussels, 11 April 2025

**For the attention of:**

*Ms. Delphine Ernotte-Cunci, President of the European Broadcasting Union  
Ms. Ana Maria Bordas, Chair of the Eurovision Song Contest Reference Group*

***SUBJECT: An appeal to EBU on excluding Israel from participating at Eurovision 2025***

***Dear Ms. Delphine Ernotte-Cunci, Ms. Ana Maria Bordas, and the Executive Committee of the European Broadcasting Union,***

*We, the undersigned members of the European Parliament, are addressing this letter to you with an urgent appeal to exclude Israel from participating in this year's 69th edition of the Eurovision Song Contest.*

*In light of over a year and a half of Israeli atrocities in Gaza and the West Bank, persistent human rights violations, and severe breaches of international law—including continued war crimes without accountability—we believe the EBU must act to uphold its mission and values, while also protecting the integrity of the competition.*

*According to its own statements, the EBU seeks to ensure a sustainable future for public media rooted in solidarity and cooperation. It affirms that it belongs to the citizens it serves. However, Israel's continued participation in Eurovision stands in direct contradiction to these principles, misrepresenting the reality of its actions and obscuring its ongoing violations of international law.*

*We also recall the numerous appeals made last year urging EBU to expel Israel from the 68th edition of the Eurovision Song Contest in Malmö, Sweden. As the EBU disregarded the appeals, Israel's participation then sparked significant controversy - including the expulsion of the Dutch entry, the banning of EU flags at the finale, and substantial security risks to organizers and attendees.*

*While the EBU argued that the refusal of the appeal and the decision to prevent Israel's expulsion were based on efforts to avoid politicizing the event, in reality, the EBU achieved the*

*opposite: it further politicized Eurovision by ignoring the severity of the situation and allowing Israel's participation.*

*The EBU must not allow such events to repeat themselves. It is of the utmost importance the EBU excludes Israel from the Eurovision Song Contest. Otherwise, the EBU will continue to be complicit in the perpetuation and impunity of war crimes and the ongoing lack of accountability for an internationally condemned military campaign—one that has already claimed the lives of more than 50,000 innocent civilians.*

*Such a blatant disregard for basic human rights and international law cannot be ignored by the EBU.*

*In the time passed, the situation has not improved, but rather, it has significantly worsened. Allowing Israel's participation under these circumstances severely undermines Eurovision's credibility as a platform for unity, peace, and cultural expression. Moreover, it raises serious security concerns. Contestants from Israel and other countries are at risk of facing threats, boycotts, and backlash, endangering both their safety and the spirit of the event itself. The EBU cannot credibly claim to prioritize participants' well-being while knowingly exposing them to such risks.*

*We further recall that the EBU suspended Russia's participation in Eurovision following its invasion of Ukraine in 2022, citing the need to uphold the values of public service media. Yet, despite overwhelming evidence of war crimes and warnings of genocide, Israel continues to enjoy full access to one of Europe's most prominent cultural stages.*

*This selective application of principles is unacceptable. Eurovision—regardless of stated intentions—is a profoundly influential political and cultural platform. To claim it is "non-political" while selectively enforcing bans and sanctions in politically charged contexts is disingenuous and damaging to the EBU's credibility.*

*By allowing Israel to participate, the EBU is actively contributing to the whitewashing of a regime accused of crimes against humanity by reputable international bodies, including the International Court of Justice.*

*To preserve its integrity, the EBU must act decisively and immediately, upholding its values of peace, cooperation, human dignity, and public accountability through consistent and courageous action. There is no room for double standards or hesitation.*

***Therefore, we urge the EBU to revoke Israel's participation in the 69th edition of the Eurovision Song Contest. The EBU must hold all participants to the same ethical standards it has previously applied and acknowledge the profound political implications of allowing an apartheid regime to compete on a European stage.***

*The world is watching — not only the atrocities unfolding in Gaza, but also the failures and moral choices of European institutions, including the EBU. Inaction or inconsistency at such a defining moment risks irreparable damage to their credibility and legacy.*

*Sincerely,*

*Matjaž NEMEC (S&D, Slovenia)*  
*Irena JOVEVEA (Renew, Slovenia)*  
*Jussi SARAMO (The Left, Finland)*  
*Estrella GALÁN (The Left, Spain)*  
*Vicent MARZÀ IBÁÑEZ (Greens, Spain)*  
*Rima HASSAN (The Left, France)*  
*Ana MIRANDA PAZ (Greens, Spain)*  
*Billy KELLEHER (Renew, Ireland)*  
*Kira Marie PETER-HANSEN (Greens, Denmark)*  
*Villy SØVNDAL (Greens, Denmark)*  
*Majdouline SBAI (Greens, France)*  
*Mounir SATOURI (Greens, France)*  
*Robert BIEDROŃ (S&D, Poland)*  
*Marc BOTENGA (The Left, Belgium)*  
*Catarina VIEIRA (Greens, Netherlands)*  
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*Alex AGIUS SALIBA (S&D, Malta)*  
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*Jaume ASENS LLODRÀ (Greens, Spain)*