



OPERATING EUROVISION AND EURORADIO

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Members of the
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To the Honourable Members of the European Parliament,

We thank you for your letter and for sharing your views regarding the participation of our Israeli Member Kan in the 69th edition of the Eurovision Song Contest. We understand your concerns and the deeply held views around the current conflict in the Middle East.

The European Broadcasting Union (EBU) is an alliance of public service media in 56 countries. Since its launch in 1956, the Eurovision Song Contest has always been a forum to bring people together through music, celebrating diversity and fostering mutual respect among those taking part and the millions who enjoy the event around the world.

We must stress that the Eurovision Song Contest is a competition between public service broadcasters who are members of the EBU. It is not a contest between governments.

We aspire to preserve the Eurovision Song Contest as a musical event free from instrumentalization. At the same time, we acknowledge that participation in the Contest has come under scrutiny in the context of recent conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East. As an independent media organization, led by our Members, we cannot make comparisons between conflicts.

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Participation in the Eurovision Song Contest is extended to all EBU member broadcasters. The Israeli broadcaster, Kan, is a full and active member of the EBU and is therefore eligible to take part. The Israeli public broadcaster has participated in the competition since 1973 and has hosted the event on several occasions.

As you rightly point out, the EBU made the decision to suspend Russia's participation in the Eurovision Song Contest in 2022 following the invasion of Ukraine. At that time, a global conversation took place which resulted in many major events barring participation by Russian representatives. It was also clear the Russian broadcasters were closely aligned with the Russian government on the issue of the invasion of Ukraine. This resulted in the suspension of the Russian broadcasters from the EBU, in May 2022, due to persistent breaches of membership obligations.

In the case of the Israeli public broadcaster, Kan has been the subject of continual criticism from the Israeli government and are currently resisting attempts by the government to privatise or close them down. We support public service media in all our member countries.

The EBU is also aligned with other international organizations, including sports unions and federations, that have similarly maintained their inclusive stance towards Israeli participants in major competitions at this time.

You reference the disqualification in 2024 of the Dutch artist, for threatening behaviour which breached the rules of the competition, and the accidental removal of EU flags at the venue at last year's event. These were unrelated to the participation of Kan in the Contest.

The flag policy at the Eurovision Song Contest is decided by the host broadcaster each year. At the event in Switzerland this year, the policy is in line with local laws that permit all flags to be brought into the venue by ticket holders, except flags of organizations banned by the Swiss government.

The well-being, safety and security of everyone attending and working at this year's event in Basel is also our top priority, as it has been in all previous events.

To ensure clear roles and responsibilities for all involved in the event, we have put in place a Code of Conduct and a Duty of Care Protocol following consultations with our Members on how to strengthen and enhance the Contest as it grows in complexity and popularity.

We are also working closely with the host broadcaster and local authorities on security arrangements which are in line with those expected for all major international events.

Despite all the current global issues, we remain committed to ensuring that the Eurovision Song Contest continues to be an inclusive event that unites audiences worldwide through music.

Yours sincerely,



Noel Curran
Director General