

*Brussels, 31 of January 2024*

To: Mr Noel Curran  
Director General of the European Broadcasting Union

Dear Mr Curran and Executive Committee of the European Broadcasting Union,

Since last October, Israel has been carrying out a siege on Gaza and a genocide against its people, with more than 26.000 people killed and 2 million forcibly displaced, with no food, water or medicine. These crimes are yet another step in Israel's offensive against Palestine, continuing its 77-year occupation and the apartheid regime and blockade of its territory. It should be noted that the International Court of Justice is already investigating Israel for the crime of genocide and has issued provisional measures against Israel.

In this context, many voices have called on the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) to exclude the Israeli regime from the Eurovision Song Contest 2024, known as Eurovision, which will hold its 68th edition in Malmö (Sweden) from 7 to 11 May, considering that its participation whitewashes a regime that is carrying out ethnic cleansing in Palestine and committing war crimes and genocide. In response, the European Broadcasting Union has issued a statement expressing its wish that Eurovision ‘remains a non-political event, where artists and broadcasters, not governments, compete’. However, the Eurovision Song Contest did veto Russia's participation in the contest from 2022 in response to its invasion of Ukraine. Also, in 2019, Iceland was fined by the festival organisers because the Icelandic contestant displayed a Palestinian flag at the Eurovision Song Contest in Tel Aviv.

The European Broadcasting Union has also stated that its Executive Committee has agreed that the Israeli public broadcaster KAN complies with the competition rules. It should be recalled that public broadcaster KAN released a video last November featuring minors singing about Gaza and uttering phrases such as ‘Within a year we will eliminate them all’, referring to the Palestinian population of Gaza.

According to the EBU itself, its aim is to ensure a sustainable future for public media based on its founding ethos of solidarity and cooperation. Furthermore, they declare their willingness to ensure that future generations benefit from content that educates, informs and entertains. In this sense, Israel's participation is in clear conflict with what the EBU claims to stand for, as it misinforms about Israel and conceals its genocidal behaviour.

For all these reasons, and with the will that the alliance of public media broadcasters fulfils its public duty to defend the right to information and to ensure respect for human rights, the undersigned MEPs and MPs wish, on the one hand, to express our deepest rejection of the entity's whitewashing of the participation of the apartheid and genocidal regime of Israel and, on the other hand, to ask you to be consistent and to apply the same standards in you decision-making, and there we ask you to reconsider your decision to allow Israel's participation in the European Song Festival.

Sincerely,

Idoia Villanueva, The Left