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**Minister of Culture & Sport**

February 22, 2024

**Noel Curran, Director General of the European Broadcasting Union**  
**Jean Philip De Tender, Deputy Director General, Director of Media**

Dear Mr. Curran, Mr. De Tender,  
I hope this letter finds you well.

As you well know, the State of Israel has been experiencing one of its most difficult and complicated times since its inception. Our people, representing various beliefs and backgrounds, have witnessed one of the deadliest and brutal attacks on civilians the world has ever seen, we have lost loved ones, and there are women, men and children still being held captive by a terrorist organization.

The last few months have also strengthened our understanding that the spirit of the people of Israel is incredibly powerful and resilient, despite the very difficult trials we have faced. We now work on rebuilding and growing together as the strong people we are and have always been.

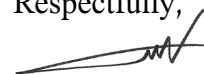
The song that Israel has elected for this year's Eurovision Song Contest was selected by a professional committee comprised of renowned names in the local music and entertainment industry. It is an emotional song, discussing regeneration and rebirth, from a very fragile reality of loss and destruction - depicting the current public sentiment in Israel these days. We now see most clearly that our life, as one, united society, overcomes even the greatest suffering. It is not a political song.

Israel, as you have most appreciatively reiterated just recently, has been participating in the Eurovision Song Contest for several decades, and has even been the proud host country of the competition for several times, including just few years ago.

We remain confident that the Eurovision Song Contest represents more than anything the power of culture and music - and trust that you will continue your important mission in keeping it free of any political maneuvers or considerations. I respectfully request that you allow the song representing Israel "October Rain" to compete in the Eurovision contest.

Thank you on behalf of the people of Israel.

Respectfully,



**Miki Zohar**  
**Minister of Culture and Sport**  
**State of Israel**