Question for written answer E-001256/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Upholding the right to study of Palestinian scholarship winners who are unable to leave Gaza

At least 56 Palestinians who have been awarded IUPALS, AFAM and Erasmus+ scholarships by Bologna, Milan, Calabria, Roma Tor Vergata and other Italian universities cannot leave the Gaza Strip owing to a lack of safe corridors and stalled consular procedures. For these students – who hail from an area where all campuses have been completely destroyed – attending an EU university is the only chance they have of exercising the right to pursue an education enshrined in Article 14 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

In the light of the fact that Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement makes relations between the two parties conditional on upholding human rights and that Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 (known as the Visa Code) provides for procedural derogations and emergency measures for humanitarian cases and prospective students, we ask the Commission:

1. What urgent steps involving the EEAS and the competent authorities will it take to facilitate the issuing of visas and the opening of educational corridors for the 56 students mentioned above?

2. How will the Commission work with the Member States to ensure that this bureaucratic inertia does not prevent Palestinians who have already been granted scholarships from making use of them before they expire?

3. How will the Commission ensure that the right to pursue an education is upheld in line with the Union's external action policy objectives for conflict areas?

Supporter[1]

Submitted: 25.3.2026

[1] This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Cecilia Strada (S&D).