

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002605/24
to the Commission
Tomáš Zdechovský (PPE)
(20 November 2024)**

Subject: Promise of gender equality: another case of possible misuse of EU funding in Gaza

Since 2000, the European Union has donated billions of euro to support programmes, projects and development goals connected to Palestinians ⁽¹⁾. Gender equality is the development goal that has received one of the largest amounts of EU funding in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip ⁽²⁾. However, there are reasonable concerns that gender equality just stands as an excuse because the funding has had no visible impact. The EU funding is being misused by the military groups in Gaza. What is more, further analysis of EU aid shows that out of this sum, more than 44% of the money has been given directly to the Palestinian Authority and not to people in need as promised. To conclude, no one knows who is using the EU money or what for.

1. Does the Commission have a mechanism to find out the extent to which the EU funding has really contributed to gender equality in Gaza (and in what way)?
2. How will the Commission re-evaluate the actual results and impacts of this money?
3. Does the Commission have relevant information on how much of this aid has reached ordinary citizens in need in Gaza?

Submitted: 20.11.2024

**Answer given by Ms Šuica on behalf of the European Commission
(25 June 2025)**

The EU has a robust policy in place to monitor and evaluate projects and programmes implemented under its financial support. Independent final evaluations provide information on the results and impact reached and help to inform EU's programming. They notably systematically include cross-cutting themes of human rights and gender.

The specific support to the Palestinian Authority (PA) channelled through PEGASE mechanism ⁽¹⁾ directly benefits thousands of civil servants and vulnerable families by contributing to the payment of salaries, pensions and social allowances. Selection of beneficiaries follows a strict safeguard mechanism through *ex-ante* and *ex-post* screening.

Within the framework of the EU's cooperation with Palestine ^(*) for the period 2014-2021, for a total amount of EUR 2.4 billion, the EU's strategy has been aligned with the needs of the most vulnerable Palestinian populations and has played a key role in support to the PA to provide basic services to end beneficiaries.

Gender equality is a cross-cutting issue within the five pillars of the European Joint Strategy in support to Palestine 2021-2024 ⁽²⁾. The Joint Strategy implementation report for 2022-2023 ⁽³⁾ showed progress in improving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through the PA gender transformative agenda, the fight against gender-based violence and the promotion of economic, labour and social rights.

It noted challenges in achieving comprehensive gender equality, aggravated by the current conflict. The EU Gender Action Plan III for the period 2021-2025 is under implementation in Palestine ⁽⁴⁾.

¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-humanitarian-support-to-palestinians/>.

² https://team-europe-explorer.europa.eu/oda/explore-oda_en.

⁽¹⁾ 'Mécanisme Palestino-Européen de Gestion et d'Aide Socio-économique' launched in 2008.

^{*} This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

⁽²⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/palestine-occupied-palestinian-territory-west-bank-and-gaza-strip/european-joint-strategy-support-palestine-2021-2024_en?s=206.

⁽³⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2024/EJS%20Implementation%20Report_2022%202023.pdf.

⁽⁴⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/palestine-occupied-palestinian-territory-west-bank-and-gaza-strip/eu-gender-action-plan-iii-country-level-implementation-plan-west-bank-and-gaza-2021-2025_en?s=206.