

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002882/24
to the Commission
Moritz Körner (Renew)
(12 December 2024)**

Subject: Martyrs Fund and principle of budgetary unity

Both the EU and the Palestinian Authority consolidate their revenues in a central general budget in line with the principle of budgetary unity. All revenue flows into the budget, making it impossible to discern which budget expenditure is funded by which budget revenue.

The Commission is asked to answer each of the following questions separately:

1. Can the Commission provide figures for the annual average amount paid by the EU to the Palestinian Authority in the period 2021-2024?
2. Can the Commission provide approximate figures for the annual average amount paid by the Palestinian Authority into the Palestinian Martyrs Fund in the period 2021-2024?
3. How is it that the Commission can say with precision that EU funds paid to the Palestinian Authority do not go to the Palestinian Martyrs Fund but it cannot exactly say how Germany's contributions to the EU budget are utilised?

Submitted: 12.12.2024

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

The EU bilateral allocation for Palestine ⁽¹⁾ under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument — Global Europe amounted to approximately EUR 1.36 billion for 2021-2024.

During this period, commitments to the Mécanisme Palestino-Européen de Gestion de l'Aide Socio-Économique (PEGASE mechanism), for direct financial support to the Palestinian Authority (PA), amounted to EUR 516.75 million (yearly average approximately EUR 130 million).

The overall EU funding for 2021-2024 supported the financing of the most essential services for Palestinians, contributed to the PA's recurrent expenditures, via PEGASE, by supporting payments of salaries for civil servants, social allowance payments, funding for the East Jerusalem hospitals, and also supported various development projects and financial assistance to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees.

The EU has never contributed to the Palestinian 'Martyr Fund' of the PA, which was discontinued with the new social protection law entering into force on 10 February 2025 ⁽²⁾.

The PA was running the Prisoner's Fund off-budget, while PEGASE contributed to the budget of the PA. The Commission's extended screening vetting system ensured that no EU funding went to the beneficiaries of the Prisoners Fund. The detainees and families (a list is provided by the PA) were categorically excluded from any payment made through PEGASE.

Finally, Member States' contributions to the EU budget are not earmarked for specific purposes. Instead, they are pooled and allocated proportionally across all expenditure categories.

⁽¹⁾ 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⁾ Decree-Law No. (4) of 2025, which amends Decree-Law No. (1) of 2019 regarding the Palestinian National Economic Empowerment Institution.