

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001739/25
to the Commission**

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(30 April 2025)

Subject: Monitoring and security of aid programmes for the Palestinian territories

On 15 April 2025, the Commission announced a EUR 1.6 billion aid programme to support the Palestinian Authority and finance projects. It includes EUR 620 million in direct budget support for the Palestinian Authority, EUR 576 million for development projects, EUR 82 million annually for UNRWA, and up to EUR 400 million in low-interest loans for the private sector.

While the Commission's stated objective is to foster stability and prosperity in the region, concerns remain about the capacity of the Palestinian Authority to ensure that the funds are managed transparently and effectively, among other reasons, because the authority's governance and efforts to tackle corruption have been criticised repeatedly.

1. Can the Commission ensure that the EUR 1.6 billion will not in any way benefit entities linked to Hamas or any terrorist organisation designated as such by the EU?
2. What specific checks and monitoring mechanisms have been established to ensure that the funds are allocated in a rigorous, transparent and humanitarian manner?
3. Does the Commission intend to make EU aid conditional on clear commitments from beneficiaries on honouring the values of peace, tolerance and non-financing of terrorism?

Supporters ⁽¹⁾

Submitted: 30.4.2025

**Answer given by Ms Šuica on behalf of the European Commission
(17 July 2025)**

The EU strongly opposes terrorism and any incitement to violence or hatred, as they are incompatible with advancing peace, which is what the EU promotes and seeks to contribute to through its efforts and cooperation in third countries.

The Commission implements rigorous safeguards to ensure that no persons or entities receive EU funding if they are involved in criminal or unethical practices, including terrorist financing and terrorist offences.

Due diligence and risk assessment are systematically conducted before funds are disbursed. All funding agreements include clauses prohibiting the diversion of funds to listed groups or individuals. EU restrictive measures are applicable to any of the Commission grant beneficiaries all over the world.

Regarding specific checks and monitoring mechanisms to ensure sound financial management in Palestine ⁽¹⁾, the Commission has strong safeguards and procedures in place to ensure that EU funds are managed in a transparent and sound manner.

For example, under the Palestinian-European Socio-Economic Management and Assistance Mechanism (PEGASE), auditors carry out *ex-ante* and *ex-post* controls and verifications.

These include verification of eligibility of the request for payment of the Palestinian Authority (PA), screening of beneficiaries against international and ad-hoc sanctions lists ahead of disbursement and auditing 100% of the payments executed by the PA.

The European Court of Auditors certified the control and safeguard system of PEGASE as 'robust'.

No evidence has been found to date that money has been diverted for unintended purposes, as reaffirmed during the financial review of EU assistance in Palestine that took place in November 2023 ⁽²⁾.

¹ This question is supported by Members other than the authors: Marie-Luce Brasier-Clain (Pfe), Julien Leonardelli (Pfe)

⁽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⁾ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/communication-commission-review-ongoing-financial-assistance-palestine_en.

Finally, the EU Financial Regulation, applicable to all partners in the EU and in partner countries, provides that grant beneficiaries and contractors shall be excluded from future EU funding in case of ‘incitement to discrimination, hatred and violence against a group of persons or a member of a group, or similar activities that are contrary to the values on which the Union is founded enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union, where such misconduct has an impact on the person or entity’s integrity which negatively affects or concretely risks affecting the performance of the legal commitment’ ⁽³⁾.

⁽³⁾ Article 138(1), point (c)(vi) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast), OJ L, 23.9.2024.