

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001978/25
to the Commission**

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(16 May 2025)

Subject: Reported military use of the EU-funded Gaza European Hospital by Hamas

Recent media reports indicate that Hamas constructed a subterranean command centre beneath the Gaza European Hospital — an institution built with EU funding to serve civilians' healthcare needs in Gaza. Reports also state that Hamas leader Mohammed Sinwar used this facility as a hiding place, effectively turning a medical institution into a military asset. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) released video evidence reportedly showing a Hamas tunnel system beneath the hospital.

If verified, this would constitute a grave violation of international humanitarian law and an abuse of EU-funded civilian infrastructure by a terrorist organisation. International law prohibits the use of protected civilian infrastructure for military purposes. When terrorist groups use hospitals to shield military operations, they bear primary responsibility for any resulting harm to civilians. For instance, the IDF targeted Mohammed Sinwar, who reportedly hid under the hospital.

Given the EU's commitment to upholding international law and protecting civilian lives, we ask:

1. Is the Commission investigating Hamas's reported use of the Gaza European Hospital for military purposes?
2. Will the Commission issue a clear condemnation of Hamas's abuse of EU-funded civilian infrastructure?
3. What steps will the Commission take to ensure that EU funds are not misused in ways that ultimately endanger the lives of civilians?

Submitted: 16.5.2025

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

The EU provided fundings, together with other Member States, for the construction of the European Hospital of Gaza 36 years ago, in 1989, 18 years before the 2007 Hamas takeover of Gaza.

With the financial support of the EU, the hospital was built to provide secondary healthcare services to Palestinians in Gaza. The EU has never had any management responsibility for the European Hospital.

Further to Israeli Defence Force order, the European Hospital, managed by the *de facto* Ministry of Health in Gaza, was evacuated in July 2024 and following the evacuation, reportedly looted. On 13 May 2025, Israeli airstrikes hit the compound of the hospital and the surrounding area causing a number of civilian casualties.

The EU has unreservedly denounced and condemned Hamas' use of medical facilities and recalled their protection under international humanitarian law ⁽¹⁾.

The EU has also reiterated repeatedly the importance of ensuring the protection of all civilians at all times, as well as of civilian infrastructures.

Regarding specific checks and monitoring mechanisms to ensure sound financial management in Palestine ⁽²⁾, the Commission has strong safeguards and procedures in place to ensure that EU funds are managed in a transparent and sound manner.

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 financing 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.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/11/12/statement-by-the-high-representative-on-behalf-of-the-european-union-on-humanitarian-pauses-in-gaza/>.

⁽²⁾ 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.

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 ⁽³⁾.

⁽³⁾ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/communication-commission-review-ongoing-financial-assistance-palestine_en.