

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002378/25
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Pina Picierno (S&D)
(12 June 2025)

Subject: Sanctioning of sham charities supporting Hamas

In October 2024, the US Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctioned three individuals and one sham charity that are prominent financial supporters of Hamas but also active in Italy, Germany and Austria ⁽¹⁾.

On 10 June 2025, OFAC sanctioned another five people and five sham charities outside the US that stand accused of financing Hamas's military wing under the guise of conducting humanitarian work both internationally and in Gaza. Some of them operate in the EU, specifically, in Italy and the Netherlands, and are run by people already subject to sanctions ⁽²⁾.

Despite those measures, the charities continue to operate undisturbed in Europe, carrying out activities for a movement that the EU has designated a terrorist organisation.

Taking into account that the US, an important Atlantic Alliance partner in efforts to tackle international terrorism and bring stability to the Middle East, has already sanctioned those charities, will the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy apply similar sanctions at EU level with a view to curbing terrorist activities in the Member States?

Submitted: 12.6.2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(17 July 2025)

Hamas has been listed by the EU, under its counterterrorism sanction regime (the EU Terrorist List), since 12 September 2003 ⁽¹⁾.

Following the 7 October 2023 attacks, the Council has listed three Hamas related individuals under the same sanctions regime. The Council also adopted a new regime targeting Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), on 19 January 2024 ⁽²⁾.

There are currently 15 listings (12 individuals and three entities) in force under that regime. Additionally, on 12 April 2024, the Council listed three entities (armed groups of Hamas and PIJ) over widespread sexual and gender-based violence during the 7 October 2023 attacks, under the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime ⁽³⁾.

Restrictive measures are adopted by the Member States in the Council by unanimity.

¹ <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy2632>.

² <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sb0162>.

⁽¹⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202400332.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32024D0385>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32024D1074>.