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Answer given by Ms Šuica
on behalf of the European Commission
(14.11.2025)

The Commission will continue to closely monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the Independent Review Group¹ and the conditions agreed with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) under EU funding 2024². As of June 2025, within a year from the publication of the Colonna report³, four out of eight recommendations on the neutrality of education were completed and four are in progress, including recommendation 35.

UNRWA's strict policy includes a thorough yearly review of host countries' learning material. UNRWA has also developed self-learning material and a course on Human Rights, Conflict Resolution and Tolerance. The Commission attaches great importance to the full and swift implementation of all recommendations, including those on neutrality of education, which remains a key element of the Commission's monitoring. The Commission's assessment is that UNRWA remains fully committed to implement the recommendations, as shown during regular meetings with stakeholders, including UNRWA's Advisory Commission and the working group on Neutrality and Integrity, where the Commission ensures active oversight.

The disbursement of the 2024 allocation to UNRWA was conditioned⁴ to the fulfilment of agreed milestones. In 2025, the Commission did not establish new conditions to EU funding to UNRWA, which showed continued capability to deliver its services, despite the legal and operational challenges. The decision to continue funding UNRWA was approved by the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) Committee⁵. Part of the 2025 allocation aims at strengthening organisational effectiveness and efficiency of UNRWA, especially related to neutrality.

Moreover, the Commission welcomes the United Nations (UN) Secretary General's initiative for a Strategic Assessment of UNRWA and supports the approach to reflect on it as part of the UN80 reform process.

¹ https://www.un.org/unispal/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/unrwa_independent_review_on_neutrality.pdf.

² Letters outlining the way forward with all the measures and procedures for the Commission's conditional funding for UNRWA were exchanged on 1 and 6 March 2024.

³ <https://www.unrwa.org/resources/reports/one-year-implementing-colonna-report-unrwa-annual-report>.

⁴ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/news/european-commission-statement-unrwa-2024-01-29_en.

⁵ Member States approved the Commission proposal unanimously at the NDICI committee meeting of May 2025.