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Answer given by Commissioner Šuica
on behalf of the European Commission
(25.3.2026)

The EU is committed to continuing its support to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in carrying out its work.

The EU has expressed its concern concerning the impact of the Israeli legislation on UNRWA for its operations in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and in Gaza.

In 2024, following the fulfilment by UNRWA of all the conditions agreed for the 2024 EU funding, the Commission disbursed EUR 92 million to the Agency¹. This came in addition to the EUR 48.5 million of EU humanitarian funding in 2024. In 2025, as a part of its multiannual and comprehensive programme for Palestine² 2025-27³, the Commission disbursed EUR 82 million to UNRWA's programme budget⁴. In 2025, the Commission also disbursed an initial contribution of EUR 28.5 million in humanitarian funding to UNRWA.

The European External Action Service (EEAS) monitors Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI) including disinformation including in countries neighbouring the EU as outlined in the Action Plan against Disinformation⁵. This includes disinformation targeting the UN and its agencies such as UNRWA.

The EEAS shares the results of its monitoring of FIMI, including disinformation, through its yearly Reports on FIMI⁶.

The EU strategy to tackle FIMI, including disinformation, is outlined in the FIMI Toolbox⁷ which in a whole society approach focuses on situational awareness; capacity building and society resilience; disruption and regulations; and EU external actions. The Joint Communication on the European Democracy Shield adopted on 5 November 2025 will further strengthen the EU's resilience and capacity to counter FIMI and disinformation⁸.

¹ https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-disburses-additional-eu10-million-payment-unrwa-2024-12-20_en.

² This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individuals positions of the Member States on this issue.

³ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_1055.

⁴ https://north-africa-middle-east-gulf.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-provides-eu30-million-unrwa-sustain-vital-services-palestine-refugees-2025-07-29_en#:~:text=The%20European%20Commission%20disbursed%20%E2%82%AC30%20million%20to%20the,commitment%20to%20supporting%20essential%20services%20for%20Palestine%20refugees.

⁵ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/action_plan_against_disinformation.pdf.

⁶ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/3rd-eeas-report-foreign-information-manipulation-and-interference-threats-0_en.

⁷ As noted by the Council in December 2023, EUCO Conclusions available here:

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/68967/europeanconclusionconclusions-14-15-12-2023-en.pdf>.

⁸ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/2539eb53-9485-4199-bfdc-97166893ff45_en?filename=JUST_template_comingsoon_standard_1.pdf.