

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004538/25
to the Commission
Moritz Körner (Renew)
(13 November 2025)**

Subject: Martyr Fund

According to the Commission's reply of June 2025 to my Question E-002882/2024 ⁽¹⁾, the Palestinian Authority's (PA) 'Martyr Fund' was discontinued when a new social protection law entered into force in February 2025.

This administrative shift merely rebranded the mechanism to create the appearance of compliance.

In July 2025, the US imposed sanctions, denying visas to officials of both the Palestine Liberation Organisation and PA for providing payments and benefits in support of terrorism to Palestinian terrorists and their families.

Terrorists continue to receive money through PA post offices, and those released in October 2025 still collect monthly salaries for the time they spent in prison. The same individuals continue to receive payments calculated according to the severity of their crimes and length of their imprisonment.

Mahmoud Abbas stated 'If we have only a single penny left, it will go to the prisoners and the martyrs. I will not allow [anyone] — and neither will you — to remove any commitment, interest or penny that is given to them. They must receive everything they did in the past, and they are more honorable than all of us.' ⁽²⁾

1. Given this, how does the Commission justify its misleading reply?
2. What actions will the Commission take now that payments rewarding terrorism persist?
3. Furthermore, how does it justify the continued EU funding to the PA despite this ongoing practice?

Submitted: 13.11.2025

**Answer given by Ms Šuica on behalf of the European Commission
(7 April 2026)**

The Commission's reply to Written Question E-002882/2024 ⁽¹⁾ was based on the official adoption in February 2025 of the new social protection law under Presidential Decree 4/2025.

The decree revoked the contentious payments to prisoners and martyrs and aims at consolidating previous schemes into a unified social protection framework where cash payments are based exclusively on needs and vulnerability criteria (and not on political ones).

The abolition of the previous system was confirmed by the President of the Palestinian Authority (PA) during his speech at the UN General Assembly in September 2025.

Since the adoption of the Presidential decree, the Palestinian National Economic Empowerment Institution (also known as Tamkeen) has taken over the management of the cash transfer programme; in the past months, the PA has worked on defining standards and criteria using a poverty-targeted formula to identify beneficiaries of the new social protection system and on registering those beneficiaries.

To verify the functioning of the system, the PA commissioned an independent audit of the reform, through an international firm, currently ongoing. The EU is contracting an additional audit exercise targeting this specific matter.

The European Council conclusions of December 2025 reiterated the EU's 'commitment to international law and to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace based on the two-state solution' and that the EU will continue to support the PA, including in its ongoing reforms ⁽²⁾.

The EU supports the PA with financial assistance through the Palestinian-European Socio-Economic Management and Assistance Mechanism (PEGASE) mechanism: a system recognised as a trusted mechanism by many donors, which is subject to rigorous controls and safeguards to ensure that EU funds are used only for their intended purposes.

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2024-002882_EN.html

² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VzhhGaUeEHg>

⁽¹⁾ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2024-002882_EN.html.

⁽²⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/wqmknoh4/en-20251218-european-council-conclusions.pdf>.

EU funding has never contributed to the ‘martyrs’ fund’ scheme, as thorough *ex ante* and *ex post* controls and screening ensure the funding reaches non-disputable beneficiaries.
