(English version)

Question for written answer E-004832/25
to the Commission
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(5 December 2025)

Subject: Interference by Hamas in the activities of EU-funded non-governmental organisations

Internal documents seized by Israeli authorities from Hamas in Gaza reveal interference by Hamas in the activities of EU-funded non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating in the region.

These documents detail how Hamas's Interior Security Mechanism monitored and controlled NGOs through the placement of 'guarantors', often Hamas affiliates, in key positions. Specific examples include:

The International Medical Corps (IMC) closed its offices in Gaza after refusing to submit reports to Hamas, only reopening after compliance.

Oxfam received EUR 800 000 from the EU in 2021 for a water irrigation project in a security-sensitive border area, documented by Hamas as providing tactical cover for 'resistance activities' through fruit tree plantations that concealed military positions.

Cesvi, is another EU-funded NGO, with at least one member identified as 'affiliated with Hamas' in a 2022 Hamas document.

These revelations raise concerns about the risk of EU taxpayer funds indirectly supporting terrorist activities.

1. What immediate steps is the Commission taking to investigate these allegations and verify compliance by the named NGOs (IMC, Oxfam, and Cesvi) with EU funding conditions?

2. Does it intend to suspend or recover funding from any non-compliant NGOs, and if so, what criteria and timelines will apply?

3. What enhanced vetting and monitoring mechanisms will it introduce for future NGO funding in high-risk areas like Gaza, to prevent infiltration by designated terrorist groups?

Submitted: 5.12.2025

Answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission
(13 March 2026)

The Commission takes very seriously any allegations involving EU-funded partners. Upon being informed of the allegations, the Commission sought clarifications, including by requesting Israeli authorities to share the original documents to verify the authenticity of the documentation based on which the allegations were made. The Commission is in the process of seeking further clarifications from the concerned parties.

At present, the Commission is not aware of any verified information indicating that EU-funded entities are breaching EU standards and values ([1]), including international law and humanitarian principles, in Gaza.

Should such evidence be presented or obtained, the Commission will take all the appropriate measures available notably under the regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 ([2]) and the applicable contractual provisions.

The Commission is aware of the complex operational situation in which EU-funded entities operate in Gaza. This is why there are already rigorous safeguards in place, including *ex-ante* due diligence and risk assessment processes, as well as rigorous *ex-post* monitoring and controls.

Under the regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, the Commission applies strict safeguards to ensure that a person or entity is excluded, under certain conditions, from EU funding if they are involved in any criminal activity, including terrorist financing and terrorist offences.

([1]) Article 138(1), point (c)(vi) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast) (OJ L, 26.9.2024 https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj/eng).
([2]) https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj/eng.