

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000266/26
to the Commission
Jorge Martín Frías (PFE)
(23 January 2026)**

Subject: Control over the destination of the EU's financial assistance to Palestine

The European Union is the largest provider of aid to Palestine. The 2021-2024 Global Europe allocations amounted to EUR 1.36 billion, on top of which up to EUR 1.6 billion has been proposed for 2025-2027. In addition, the EU has given EUR 455 million to UNRWA (2021-2025), channelled EUR 688.75 million through the PEGASE mechanism since 2021 (for direct budget support to the Palestinian Authority, including salaries, pensions and social benefits) and donated over EUR 550 million in humanitarian aid since 2023.

Given the large sums involved and continued concerns about a lack of transparency and the possible diversion of funds, accountability to European taxpayers must be strengthened.

In view of the above:

1. What safeguards are in place to ensure that EU funds do not end up, directly or indirectly, in the hands of the terrorist group Hamas?
2. With regard to UNRWA, what measures ensure that EU funding neither contributes to radicalisation, nor is used for purposes that run counter to EU values?

Submitted: 23.1.2026

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

The Commission implements rigorous safeguards to ensure that no persons or entities receive EU funding if these are subject to EU sanctions or are involved in any criminal or unethical practices, including terrorist financing and offences. These safeguards include *ex ante* and *ex post* risk assessment, monitoring and strong controls and audits.

These include verification of eligibility of the request for payment of the Palestinian Authority (PA), screening of beneficiaries against international and ad hoc sanctions lists ahead of disbursement and auditing 100% of the payments executed by the PA.

The European Court of Auditors certified the control and safeguard system of the Palestinian-European Socio-Economic Management and Assistance Mechanism (PEGASE) as 'robust'.

No evidence has been found to date that money has been diverted for unintended purposes, as reaffirmed during the financial review of EU assistance in Palestine that took place in November 2023.

Following Hamas' terrorist attacks against Israel on 7 October 2023, the EU carried out a thorough review of EU financial assistance ⁽¹⁾ for Palestine ⁽²⁾, including programmes implemented by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).

The review showed that the Commission's controls and existing safeguards in place work well, and no evidence has been found to date that money has been misused or diverted for unintended purposes.

UNRWA is a pillar-assessed UN Agency and has been subject to a complementary pillar assessment in 2022. In the last years, the Commission has also been working closely with UNRWA to enhance the neutrality processes and controls systems in the Agency, among others by financing, in 2024, a project to reinforce the Department of Internal Oversight Services and Ethics Department.

Furthermore, the Commission is also a member of the Working Group on Neutrality and Integrity Issues which aims, among others, at advising and supporting UNRWA in the implementation of the Colonna Report Recommendations ⁽³⁾.

⁽¹⁾ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/communication-commission-review-ongoing-financial-assistance-palestine_en.

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

⁽³⁾ <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/colonna-report-and-unrwahigh-level-action-plan-for-implementation-of-the-recommendations/>.