(English version)

Question for written answer E-002153/26
to the Commission
Charlie Weimers (ECR), Dick Erixon (ECR), Beatrice Timgren (ECR)
(27 May 2026)

Subject: EU funds used for financing terrorism

Islamic Relief Worldwide received EU funding to the tune of more than EUR 34 million between 2007 and 2020 ([1]).

In May 2026, previously withheld reports by the German Federal Court of Auditors became public ([2]). It found that Islamic Relief Germany has forwarded large amounts of funds directly to its partner organisations, where scrutiny, transparency and control is more limited. In one case, EUR 240 000 were transferred in suitcases by plane from Germany to Türkiye. Furthermore, it is stated that Islamic Relief Worldwide supports Hamas, and that German public funds have flowed to Hamas indirectly through these organisations.

In light of the above:

1. Does the Commission assess that any of the tens of millions it has distributed to Islamic Relief Worldwide may have flowed directly or indirectly to Hamas or other terror organisations?

2. Will the Commission commit to removing Islamic Relief Sweden and Islamic Relief Germany from the list of EU humanitarian partners?

3. Will the Commission examine whether funds distributed to Islamic Relief and associated organisations have been misused and, if so, will the Commission reclaim these funds?

Submitted: 27.5.2026

Answer given by Ms Lahbib on behalf of the European Commission
(31 July 2026)

The Commission applies strict legal, financial and operational safeguards to all EU-funded actions to prevent any EU funds from benefiting entities or individuals subject to EU restrictive measures or involved in terrorism.

All humanitarian aid implemented under the Commission's responsibility is subject to robust *ex-ante* assessments, contractual obligations, monitoring requirements and audit and control mechanisms. EU-funded partners must comply with the applicable EU legal framework.

The actions implemented by Islamic Relief in the past have been subject to the standard audit, control and monitoring procedures applicable under EU-funded humanitarian actions.

In this context, the Commission has no evidence at present that EU humanitarian funding provided has been diverted to Hamas or to terrorist organisations.

The Commission notes that the reports of the German Federal Court of Auditors do not contain direct evidence that funds were transferred to the Muslim Brotherhood or Hamas, or that Islamic Relief used such funds to finance terrorist attacks.

As regards the status of Islamic Relief Sweden and Islamic Relief Germany as EU humanitarian partners, the Commission continuously assesses whether partner organisations comply with the conditions required to obtain and keep the EU humanitarian certificate. Any decision affecting the eligibility of a partner would need to be based on substantiated findings following the relevant procedures.

The Commission will continue to monitor the implementation of EU-funded actions closely to safeguard the EU budget and ensure that financial assistance reaches people in need in full compliance with EU law and humanitarian principles, including impartiality and neutrality.

---

[1] Gior, Europe and the Global Muslim Brotherhood Part 1: European Governmental Funding, https://www.global-influence-ops.com/reports/european-funding-of-the-global-muslim-brotherhood/.

[2] https://www.giordano-bruno-stiftung.de/sites/gbs/files/abschliessende_pruefungsmitteilung_teil_1_geschwaerzt_final.pdf; https://www.giordano-bruno-stiftung.de/sites/gbs/files/abschliessende_pruefungsmitteilung_teil_2_geschwaerzt_final.pdf.