

EN

E-002235/2026

Answer given by Ms Šuica
on behalf of the European Commission
(3.9.2026)

On 10 February 2025, by Presidential decree 4/2025¹, the Palestinian Authority (PA) abolished the previous prisoners and martyrs' payment system and established a new social system based exclusively on socio-economic and vulnerability criteria. An independent and international audit contracted by the PA of the new system is ongoing since January 2026. The EU has also launched its own comprehensive system audit to verify that no parallel payment system is in place. This audit is expected to be completed by the end of 2026. The May 2026 court ruling reported by the Times of Israel concerns an individual case arising from the application of the previous legal framework governing prisoners' entitlements. It does not call into question the overall reform currently being implemented.

Most funds disbursed by the EU to the PA are linked to its progress on reforms in the areas of fiscal sustainability, including social protection, good governance, private sector development and the provision of public services. The Reform Matrix is a working document attached to the Financing Agreements with the PA of 2025 and 2026-2027, which is not for public dissemination. The Commission has always excluded financial support to the prisoners and martyrs' payment system. Part of the EU's funding contributes to the PA's social allowances to vulnerable individuals and families, allocated on the basis of socio-economic criteria. All financial support is subject to robust controls and safeguards to ensure that EU funds are used only for their intended purposes. The EU applies a strict vetting process to the beneficiaries of its payments and tracks each financial transfer to vetted individuals.

¹ <https://mjr.ogb.gov.ps/Decrees/Download/?p=f696dd21-7507-4d72-a3fc-b3e140469b55.pdf&d=%D9%82%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%A8%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%B1%D9%82%D9%85-4-%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%86%D8%A9-2025-%D9%85-%D9%81%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%B7%D9%8A%D9%86>.