

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-003178/25
to the Commission
Elena Donazzan (ECR)
(4 August 2025)**

Subject: EU and international funding to Gaza over the past 20 years

According to journalistic sources and independent analyses, an estimated USD 45 billion in international aid has been allocated to Gaza over the past 20 years. A significant share of these funds originated from the EU, either directly or indirectly. Nevertheless, Hamas, designated as a terrorist organisation by the EU since 2001, still exercises de facto control over the territory.

This raises serious concerns about the oversight and final use of EU funds allocated for humanitarian and development purposes. Around 13 000 UN employees are active in Gaza, with part of their salaries financed by the EU. Over the course of two decades, these staff never officially reported the construction of tunnels or the trafficking and stockpiling of weapons. Their presence and activities have not prevented these developments, raising doubts about the effectiveness and accountability of EU-funded operations.

We ask the Commission:

1. What is the total amount of EU funds disbursed bilaterally or multilaterally in favour of the Gaza Strip from 2004 to the present, and the funding breakdown per year, programme and disbursing channel?
2. What monitoring mechanisms have been applied to prevent the misuse of these funds by Hamas or related actors?
3. How does the Commission evaluate and oversee the role and mandate of UN personnel partially funded by the EU?

Submitted: 4.8.2025

**Answer given by Ms Šuica on behalf of the European Commission
(9 January 2026)**

Since 2000, the EU has provided more than EUR 1.25 billion in humanitarian aid to the occupied Palestinian territory, including Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

Support has increased significantly since 2023 with around EUR 550 million disbursed, including nearly EUR 220 million in 2025. EU humanitarian assistance is delivered through humanitarian partner organisations, not governments.

In addition, between 2004 and 2025 the Commission committed approximately EUR 6.8 billion in development assistance for the benefit of the Palestinian Territories ⁽¹⁾ under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation instrument for 2021-2025 as well as previous instruments ⁽²⁾ for 2004-2020, ensuring support to the Palestinian Authority, the Palestinian population, as well as Palestine ⁽³⁾ refugees ⁽³⁾.

It is not possible to provide a breakdown by specific operational hub, as EU support covers the entire occupied Palestinian territory, and many actions address needs across both Gaza and the West Bank.

The EU has a system of safeguards in place to ensure that EU funds are protected against misuse or deviation for unintended purposes, including terrorism such as the early detection and exclusion system. These general safeguards are reinforced by tailor-made measures specific to the West Bank and Gaza Strip context.

The EU applies strict vigilance and accountability requirements to all partners, who must abide by strict ethical and professional rules, and have effective internal control and risk-management systems.

EU-funded humanitarian aid organisations undergo a due diligence assessment prior to the disbursement of funds, assuring the Commission of their capacity to manage funds and mitigate risks such as aid diversion.

⁽¹⁾ Including approximately EUR 3.7 billion for the Palestinian Authority and approximately EUR 1.9 billion for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

⁽²⁾ European Neighbourhood Instrument for the 2014-2020 period, European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument for the 2007-2013 period as well as a number of instruments for the period 2004-2006 such as Council Regulation (EC) No 1488/96 of 23 July 1996 on financial and technical measures to accompany (MEDA) the reform of economic and social structures in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership or Council Regulation (EC) No 1292/96 of 27 June 1996 on food-aid policy and food-aid management and special operations in support of food security.

* *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⁾ For more details, Commission financing decisions are available on the Commission's website: https://north-africa-middle-east-gulf.ec.europa.eu/european-neighbourhood-policy/countries-region/palestine_en.

For development assistance, implementing partners must pass the ‘Pillar Assessment’ process, ensuring systems and procedures equivalent to the Commission’s standards of sound financial management.

The Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement with the United Nations provides the legal basis, verification and control provisions to ensure compliance with EU restrictive measures ⁽⁴⁾.

⁽⁴⁾ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/communication-commission-review-ongoing-financial-assistance-palestine_en.