

**Question for written answer E-001617/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 144

Dick Erixon (ECR), Charlie Weimers (ECR), Beatrice Timgren (ECR), Kristoffer Storm (ECR), Sebastian Tynkkynen (ECR)

Subject: The EU is increasing aid payments despite promoting Palestinian terror

Despite the fact that aid from Sweden and Europe has been used to promote Palestinian terror¹, the Commission is seeking to increase disbursements. In a letter of intent, the Commission makes it clear that it will pay billions more in order to support the Palestinian Authority's 'reform efforts'.²

According to the Commission, the aim of a new Palestine strategy is to stabilise 'the Palestinian Authority and the economy in the West Bank. Coupled with a substantial and credible reform agenda [...], it is laying the foundations for recovery and building resilience.'. The additional bill for the taxpayer will be EUR 400 million for July to September 2024 alone.³

This short-term support will then be replaced by a 'Comprehensive Programme for Palestinian Recovery and Resilience'. The Commission has pledged robust legislative proposals for as early as September in order to ensure that disbursements under the new assistance programme commence this year. The assistance programme is to ensure that a balanced budget is achieved by 2026, with fiscal sustainability thereafter. The aim is to streamline Palestinian officialdom, combat corruption, strengthen the rule of law and transparency, reform the social security and education systems, improve the business environment, and bolster the foundations of a free-market economy.

It is made clear in the letter of intent that individuals and organisations named on terrorism lists cannot benefit from the assistance:⁴

1. In view of the economic situation in the Member States, how does the Commission justify increased disbursements?
2. How does the Commission intend to ensure that no funds are misused, and can it explain how the new Palestine strategy will be monitored so as to ensure that the objectives are met and that taxpayers' money is spent responsibly?

Submitted: 4.9.2024

¹ <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2023/10/10/eu-funded-water-pipelines-hamas-rockets/>

² https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/597ce07b-fb47-4bd2-b7ef-46c4401487de_en?filename=Letter%20of%20Intent%20-%20EU%20PA%20final.pdf

³ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_3823

⁴ "In the framework of the Union's restrictive measures, adopted on the basis of Article 29 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) and 215(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), no funds or economic resources may be made available, directly or indirectly, to or for the benefit of designated legal persons, entities or bodies. Such designated entities, and entities owned or controlled by them, therefore cannot be supported by the Programme. The conditions formulated by the European Commission for its support relating to the avoidance of hate speech and incitation to violence also apply."