

**Question for written answer E-004846/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Embezzlement of EU humanitarian aid in Tindouf Camps (Algeria)

During last year's budgetary discharge procedure MEPs were alerted to an OLAF report (OF 2003/526) regarding a blatant case of misappropriations of EU humanitarian funds by Sahrawi and Algerian officials that went on for decades. The final 2013 Budgetary Discharge Report adopted by Parliament includes a compromise amendment with a reference to the embezzlements in the Tindouf Camps. In a hearing in the CONT Committee in July 2015, DG ECHO's Director-General mentioned that Algeria imposes a tax of 5 % of the annual EUR 10 million in humanitarian aid to the Tindouf Camps, admitting that this is unacceptable. A conservative estimate would indicate that over the last 30 years the EU has paid between EUR 10 million and EUR 15 million in taxes to Algeria.

Can the Commission outline what measures have been taken to address this situation since the 2013 Budgetary Discharge Report was adopted?

Has the Commission found a solution with Algeria to this unacceptable taxation practice that could cost European taxpayers up to EUR 500 000 per year?

Are other organisations taxed similarly for humanitarian aid to the Tindouf Camps?