

**Question for written answer E-005700/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Afzal Khan (S&D)**

Subject: Support for Gaza

The economic blockade of Gaza, now in its ninth year, has crushed the once vibrant economy and has caused the deterioration of socio-economic conditions, with a heavy impact on the lives of civilians. More than 43 % of people in Gaza, including more than 60 % of young people, are now unemployed – the highest unemployment rate in the world. 80 % of people rely on humanitarian aid.

- What support is the Commission providing to tackle unemployment and poverty in Gaza? Has the Commission assessed the effectiveness of the assistance?
- Only by putting an end to the Israeli blockade of Gaza can the dire economic situation facing the Palestinians be addressed. What steps is the Commission taking to achieve this?