

**Question for written answer E-002832/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Rachida Dati (PPE)

Subject: Humanitarian aid and cash payments

In a guidance note issued in November 2017, the European Commission indicated that it would prioritise the provision of cash in its humanitarian aid operations. Previously, in September 2016, the Commission had already launched a support programme to provide EUR 115 million in aid to refugees in the form of vouchers and cash payments, with a further EUR 180 million being added to this in April 2018.

According to the Commission, cash assistance would afford greater flexibility of choice to the people in need and enhance the effectiveness of the humanitarian response.

Several cases of diversion of humanitarian aid have been identified in recent years. The Red Cross revealed that more than EUR 5 million had been misappropriated in West Africa – with the complicity of its employees – from the funds provided to fight the Ebola epidemic between 2014 and 2016.

It is undeniable that sums paid in cash are easy to divert and that it is that much harder to trace them.

What specific measures will the Commission employ to ensure the correct use of cash it provides?
Does the Commission have any monitoring and traceability mechanisms?