

**Question for written answer E-002033/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: The resumption of direct budget support to Egypt

In response to the massacres committed by Egyptian security forces at Nahda and Rabaa squares in Cairo in August 2013, the Foreign Affairs Council suspended the EU's direct budget support to Egypt.

The Commission has apparently recently decided to release parts of those funds.

1. Can the Commission confirm that it has released these or other previously frozen direct budget support funds for Egypt? Did the Commission perform a human rights impact assessment of the implications of the disbursement in the relevant sectors and, if so, can it annex this assessment to its answer to this question?
2. Why did the Commission decide to release some direct budget support to Egypt, given ongoing human rights violations, the deterioration of democracy and flagrant violations of the rule of law in the country? Does the Commission plan to release the other budget support lines still currently frozen? If so, what is the expiry date for these lines, and will they be accompanied by a human rights impact assessment?
3. When direct budget support to Egypt was suspended what eligibility criteria were considered by the Foreign Affairs Council and the Commission? Can the Commission annex these criteria to its answer to this question?