

**Question for written answer P-001643/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Aid to fund the reconstruction of Gaza by the UNRWA

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has officially reported that it has been forced to suspend its programme providing assistance to the 96 000 families whose homes were damaged or destroyed as a result of Israel's 'Operation Protective Edge' offensive due to lack of funds.

Of the USD 5.4 billion pledged by donors at the Cairo International Conference on Palestine, of which USD 750 million was considered to be essential for reconstruction work, only USD 135 million has so far been received.

It is estimated that USD 100 million is urgently needed in order to continue with the aid plan, and the severe humanitarian impact of this lack of funds, occurring during the toughest winter the region has experienced, is already being felt: the first deaths due to hypothermia have already been recorded. We cannot allow this policy of signing cheques without providing actual funds to continue, as it comes at the cost of human lives.

Is the Commission able to report the total sum of the pledges made by the EU for specifically addressing the crisis in Gaza and also how much of the amount pledged has actually been received?

Does the Commission intend to issue an appeal for extra funding so that the UNRWA can resume its work in Gaza?