

Question for written answer P-002029/2019/rev.1
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Anna Elżbieta Fotyga (ECR)

Subject: VP/HR - EU funding through PEGASE and education in UNRWA schools

The EU is UNRWA's largest and most reliable donor, providing EUR 179 million directly in 2018, and a total of EUR 1.2 billion including Member State donations during 2016-2018. The 2016 budget discharge called for EU-financed teaching and training programmes to reflect common EU values of peace, tolerance and non-discrimination. Unfortunately, research shows that no major changes were made to the Palestinian Authority (PA) curriculum taught in UNRWA schools.

The EU invests in UNRWA and provides direct financial aid to PA teachers and education officials involved in implementing the PA curriculum taught in UNRWA and PA schools. With this in mind, can the VP/HR ensure that teachers in these schools do not teach content that could be classified as 'incitement', 'intolerance' or 'demonization' of other nations?

The United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) has declassified a UNRWA report of April 2018 which confirmed UNRWA's failure to ensure that textbooks used in its schools meet UN values. What steps are the VP/HR planning to take to make sure that UNRWA and PA officials that receive direct EU aid in 2019-2020 teach a school curriculum that reflects EU values?

Will the VP/HR commit to contacting the PA Ministry of Education and UNWRA before June 2019, when the 2019-2020 curriculum is prepared?