The Commission has announced EUR 21 million in additional financial support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

The European Court of Auditors noted in Special Report 14/2013 that ‘a considerable number of civil servants were receiving salaries, partly funded by Pegase DFS…but who were not going to work due to the political situation in Gaza.’

At the time, the Commission and the European External Action Service said that they had ‘sufficiently addressed this problem,’ that it had been raised at the highest political level and that the issue would continue to be the focus of future discussions with the Palestinian Authority (PA).

Considering that the proposed long-term EU budget demands an additional SEK 15 billion per annum from Swedish taxpayers; that the EU remains the single largest donor to the UNRWA; and that PEGASE DFS instrument provides financial assistance to the PA to cover recurrent costs such as civil employee salaries and pensions:

1. Can the Commission outline what concrete and ongoing steps have been taken and what policies have been implemented following the 2013 announcement that EU taxpayer money would no longer cover the salaries of PA civil servants who refuse to work?

2. What, if any, pledges has the Commission made to cover UNRWA donations for the upcoming long-term budget period?