2022 Discharge to the Commission

ADDITIONAL WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO COMMISSIONER
OLIVÉR VÁRHELYI
Hearing on 26 October 2023

1. How much money from the EU Budget has been allocated to the Palestinian Authority in 2022, and in 2023 until 16 October? Can you provide a breakdown of the financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority into specifically earmarked categories such as Education, Healthcare, Humanitarian Assistance, and general Budget Support? Can you also provide a breakdown of how much of each category of money ended-up in the Gaza strip?

Commission’s answer:

The European Commission has allocated EUR 186 million in support of the PA and cooperation projects in 2022. Out of those 186 million, EUR 103 million were channelled under PEGASE (Mécanisme palestino-européen de gestion et d’aide socio-économique) to directly support the Palestinian Authority recurring expenditures.

- EUR 50 million were allocated in support of payments of salaries and pensions of PA West Bank employees and pensioners namely in the education, health, justice and social protection sectors out of which EUR 25 million were paid in June 2023.

- EUR 40 million in support of the most vulnerable families, the majority of which being in the Gaza Strip out of which EUR 11 million were paid in July 2023.

- EUR 13 million in support of the East Jerusalem Hospitals, which were paid in April 2023.

No funds have been yet allocated to the Palestinian Authority in 2023.

Overall two thirds of our annual cooperation (including our support to UNRWA) is implemented in the West Bank, while one third is implemented in Gaza.
2. Was there also money given to other beneficiaries than the Palestinian Authority in the Palestinian territories in 2022, and in 2023 until 16 October? How much and to which organisations? Can you provide a breakdown of what kind of assistance was provided with that money, for categories such as education, healthcare, humanitarian assistance and other relevant categories? Can you also provide a breakdown of how much of this money ended up in the Gaza strip?

**Commission’s answer:**

The European Commission has allocated EUR 283 million in 2022 (EUR 186 million for the PA and cooperation projects and EUR 97 million for UNRWA) in support of Palestinians and UNRWA as well as EUR 82 million in support of UNRWA in 2023. 2022 sectors of intervention include access to water, greening the Palestinian economy, democracy and the rule of law, as well as culture. Specific actions also target the resilience of the Palestinian population living in East Jerusalem and in the Area C. A number of pillar assessed organisations are considered for the implementation of those actions, including UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, UN Habitat, GIZ as well as local partners and non-governmental organisations.