

Question for written answer E-002205/2024

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Endorsement of two anti-UNRWA bills by the Israeli Knesset

On 6 October 2024, the Israeli Knesset endorsed two bills revoking the privileges and immunities of UNRWA and banning the agency in the ‘sovereign territory of Israel’. If enacted, the bills would *de jure* end any possibility for UNRWA to operate in Gaza, and likely the West Bank. UNRWA’s current role, and the role it will have in the aftermath of the conflict, cannot be underestimated. It remains the backbone of the humanitarian response in Gaza and continues to provide essential services, including education and primary healthcare, to Palestinian refugees in the West Bank.

1. Has the Commission evaluated the operational and political impact that these laws would have if they were implemented? Which steps have been taken to prevent the adoption and implementation of these bills, in line with the European Council conclusions¹?
2. Does the Commission agree that the bills are a violation of Israel’s legal obligations under Articles 2(5) and 105 of the UN Charter, the 1946 Convention on UN Privileges and Immunities and the obligations of the occupying power under international humanitarian law, among others?
3. Can the Commission reconfirm that it will uphold full political and financial support to UNRWA and that it considers this a key element in the EU strategy of contributing to the promotion of security, stability and development in the region?

Supporter²

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¹ European Council conclusions of 27 June 2024: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/06/28/european-council-conclusions-27-june-2024/>.

² This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Estrella Galán (The Left)