

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0090/04
by Ilka Schröder (GUE/NGL)
to the Council

Subject: Effects of including Hamas on the list of terrorist organisations

Since September 2003 the EU has classified the Palestinian organisation Hamas as a terrorist organisation in its entirety (Common Position 2003/651/CFSP¹), while its military wing Izz al-Din al-Qassem has been thus classified since December 2001. Under Common Position 2001/931/CFSP² inclusion on this list entails the freezing of financial and economic assets, joint assistance and police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters in combating terrorism. Under Regulation (EC) 2580/2001³ the financial and economic assets of persons and organisations included on the list are to be frozen; furthermore, no additional resources may be made available (except for humanitarian purposes).

In the view of Commissioner Patten, inclusion on the list means that the Member States offer each other 'the widest possible assistance' in preventing and combating terrorist acts through police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters and that the financial restrictions set out in Regulation 2580/2001 apply (see his answer to Written Question E-2774/03⁴ by Theresa Villiers).

1. What concrete measures have been taken by the Member States since December 2001 in terms both of freezing assets and of police and judicial cooperation? (a) What is the order of magnitude of the frozen assets? (b) What does 'the widest possible assistance' mean in practice?
2. What measures has the Council used to implement its decision of September 2003 (a) in legal terms and (b) in executive terms?
3. Does the Council decision on Hamas include the network of social services run by Hamas officials? In which EU Member States are charitable collections allowed (a) for Hamas and (b) for the Hamas social network even after the Council decision of September 2003?
4. In which Member States have the greatest number of measures or the the most comprehensive measures been taken?
5. What has the classification of Hamas as a terrorist organisation achieved in terms of the fight against terrorism?

¹ OJ L 229, 13.9.2003, p. 42.

² OJ L 344, 28.12.2001, p. 93.

³ OJ L 344, 28.12.2001, p. 70.

⁴ OJ C ...