

**Question for written answer E-009764/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Mike Natrass (NI)

Subject: Muslim Aid

According to the Commission's own records, the European Union granted EUR 9 099 343 to Muslim Aid between 2007 and 2011.

Muslim Aid was one of the founding members of the Union of Good, established in 2000. In 2008, the US Department of the Treasury designated the Union of Good as a terrorist organisation, stating: 'The leadership of Hamas created the Union of Good [...] in order to facilitate the transfer of funds to Hamas'. In the same year, Muslim Aid was one of several associations outlawed by the Israeli Ministry of Defence because 'they are part of Hamas's fundraising network, and both support and assist it'. Indeed, Muslim Aid has openly admitted transferring funds to the Islamic University of Gaza – a Hamas-controlled institution – and to the al-Ihsan Charitable Society, which is linked to Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

Additionally, Muslim Aid has been identified by no less than three separate Bangladeshi intelligence agencies as one of ten NGOs that finance and promote Islamic terrorism in Bangladesh. In 2002, similar concerns were expressed by Spanish authorities, who alleged that Muslim Aid 'used funds to send mujahideen fighters to Bosnia'. The prestigious Brussels-based International Crisis Group has also documented Muslim Aid's extensive links to the charity KOMPAK, which acts as a fundraising front for the Indonesian jihadist group Jemaah Islamiah.

In anticipation of being assured that the EU only funds specific humanitarian projects as opposed to the organisations that coordinate them, I would draw the Commission's attention to the findings of an independent evaluation of a major EU-funded project, which noted evidence of 'weak monitoring by EC staff and poor knowledge of what projects are actually about, particularly at the Brussels level'. Furthermore, as NGO Monitor observes, 'many of the organisations which receive funding from the EU are unelected, nontransparent, and unaccountable, which makes the funding process capable of being subject to abuse'. Consequently, there is no way of knowing that taxpayers' money has not found its way into the hands of terrorists.

In light of these facts, will the Commission admit that it was unwise and dangerous to provide funding to Muslim Aid, and undertake never to do so again?