

**Question for written answer E-007109/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
Peter van Dalen (ECR)**

Subject: European Court of Auditors' damning assessment of EU aid to Egypt

On 18 June 2013, the European Court of Auditors published a report on the EU aid supplied to Egypt in the periods before and after the Uprising of January 2011. The conclusion reached in the report is damning: the support was 'well-intentioned but ineffective'. The Court of Auditors concludes, among other things, that

- 'the "softly softly" approach has not worked';
- the Commission is the only donor providing direct budget support to Egypt, but that 'lack of budgetary transparency, an ineffective audit function and endemic corruption' undermined the effect of this support;
- the Commission 'does not give sufficient attention to women's and minorities' rights', while their situation is even worse than during the Mubarak rule. 'The Christians are suffering the brunt of the violence.'

The Court of Auditors reports that the Commission and the EEAS have accepted virtually all the Court's recommendations.

1. Can the Commission specify which recommendations it has accepted and which it has not?
2. Can the Commission indicate what specific policy changes it will implement in response to the Court's report?
3. Can the Commission indicate why it is the only donor providing direct budget support to Egypt? Does the Commission agree with me that this form of aid must be stopped immediately, seeing that the problems identified, such as a lack of transparency and control and endemic corruption, are surely not going to disappear overnight?
4. Can the Commission specify what actions it is going to take following the conclusions regarding the deteriorating situation of women and minorities? What is the Commission going to do to improve the situation of the Christians, given that its policy in this respect has failed so far?
5. If the Commission believes that the aid to Egypt should be continued, can it indicate the conditions under which this aid will be provided in future and how compliance with these conditions will be verified?