

**Question for written answer E-011818/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Auke Zijlstra (NI) and Lucas Hartong (NI)

Subject: EUR 2.3 billion of EU aid to Palestinians missing

The edition of the UK newspaper *The Sunday Times* published on 13 October last mentions an unpublished report from the Court of Auditors. The report describes the lack of supervision with regard to the spending of the European aid funds given to the 'Palestinian Authority'. This has resulted in failure to keep an eye on the spending of EUR 2.3 billion in aid which the EU paid to the so-called 'occupied territories' between 2008 and 2012.

On 20 September 2012 the MEP Mr Zijlstra submitted questions to the Commission about the spending of the funds paid by the EU to the Palestinian Authority (E-008299/2012). He expressed his concern that this money was being used to pay thousands of dollars a month to terrorists locked up in Israeli prisons. The Commission stated in its answer to Mr Zijlstra that none of the funds paid by European taxpayers to the Palestinian Authority go to the convicted terrorists.

1. Can the Commission confirm that the Court of Auditors has published a report containing criticism about the EU's management, or rather lack of it, in terms of the way in which European taxpayers' money paid to the 'Palestinian Authority' is spent?
2. If so, does this cast in a different light the answer which the Commission gave to Mr Zijlstra?
3. In light of the Court of Auditors' findings, does the Commission still stand by its statement that not a penny of EU taxpayers' money goes to Palestinian terrorists?
4. If so, on what does the Commission base this view? Would it please provide a detailed explanation with supporting evidence?