

**Question for written answer E-013394/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Auke Zijlstra (NI) and Lucas Hartong (NI)

Subject: Funding of released terrorists

On various occasions, I have expressed my concerns about the EU funding projects for the Palestinian Authority (PA). There is inadequate monitoring of how these funds are spent, as a result of which European taxpayers' money ends up being used for things for which it was not intended (E-008299/2012, E-011818/2013).

An article in *The Times of Israel* reports that the PA awarded each prisoner released by the Israeli authorities a payment of at least USD 50 000¹. Twenty-six Palestinian prisoners who had been convicted of murdering Israelis and recently released by Israel as a goodwill gesture in order to smooth the path of peace talks have received at least the amount listed above, plus a monthly sum from the PA. The amount of the monthly sum for the former prisoners depends on the length of their incarceration.

Those who were held for over 25 years are also receiving a (Government) job with a monthly salary of USD 4 000. This means not only that the PA is paying former Palestinian prisoners (see my previous questions to the Commission), but also that released prisoners are receiving monetary bonuses and (imaginary) jobs.

1. Can the Commission guarantee me that no European taxpayers' money is being used to pay released Palestinian terrorists and/or their families simply for having been imprisoned as a result of carrying out terrorist activities against Israelis?
2. Can the Commission guarantee me that no EU funding is being paid out to fund the salary of released Palestinian terrorists in (Government) jobs that were created in order to 'reward' the terrorists in question for their terrorist activities?
3. If not, what steps is the EU going to take to prevent European taxpayers' money from being used to fund released Palestinian terrorists and their families, either directly or indirectly?
4. Does the Commission believe, in any case, that USD 4 000 (five times the modal average salary for a Palestinian official) is an appropriate salary, given the socio-economic context of Palestine, which the EU deems a development area?

¹ <http://www.timesofisrael.com/palestinian-authority-gives-freed-prisoners-50000-each/>