

**Question for written answer E-014347/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
Philippe de Villiers (EFD)**

Subject: Direct Financial Support to the Palestinian Authority

In a special report (RS No 14/2013) entitled 'European Union Direct Financial Support to the Palestinian Authority', the European Court of Auditors makes a damning finding for the Commission and the EEAS.

The report reveals that 'EU Direct Financial Support to the Palestinian Authority needs an overhaul'. 'In Gaza a considerable number of civil servants were being paid without going to work and providing a public service.' 'The Commission and the EEAS have not sufficiently addressed this problem.'

Since 1994, the European Union has paid over EUR 5.6 billion in aid to the Palestinian people. Between 2008 and 2012, Pegase DFS provided financing of approximately EUR 1 billion. Since 2007, the Union, which is the main provider of funds to the Palestinian Authority, has paid approximately EUR 2.9 billion for projects in the occupied territories; that represents nearly 20 % of all European aid paid under the neighbourhood policy.

What provisions has the Commission already taken to stop this wastage?