

**Question for written answer E-006812/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Dominique Bilde (ID)

Subject: Relations between the European Union and Islamic Relief Worldwide

According to the Middle East Forum, Islamic Relief (IR), whose headquarters is Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW)¹, was founded by 'prominent members of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood'².

An IRW trustee had to resign in July 2020 after it emerged that he had made antisemitic comments³. In August 2020, the entire IRW Board stood down after revelations concerning similar comments by another trustee⁴. Finally, in November 2020, a former interim CEO resigned for similar reasons, according to an article in *The Jerusalem Post* on 15 November 2020⁵.

According to the Middle East Forum, 'a report published by King's College London's International Centre for the Study of Violence and Radicalisation and Political Violence' corroborated the Forum's research that uncovered 'collaboration between IR branches and proxies for the terrorist organisation Hamas'.

Some countries have cracked down on IRW. Bangladesh has banned IR from Rohingya refugee camps. The United Arab Emirates designated IRW a terrorist organisation in 2014⁶.

1. Can the Commission confirm that no EU aid or financial support has been given to IRW since 2018?
2. Can the Commission clarify the actions it is going to take in relation to IRW?

¹ 'IR's headquarters, Islamic Relief Worldwide'.

² 'Islamic Relief (IR) founded by prominent members of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood', <https://www.meforum.org/61740/islamic-relief-subsidizes-terror>.

³ <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/islamic-relief-leader-quits-as-times-discovers-antisemitic-posts-5dplw9vv> 'Heshmat Khalifa was a trustee and director of Islamic Relief Worldwide. He resigned after *The Times* confronted the global aid charity with antisemitic comments that he made on his Facebook page.'

⁴ <https://www.islamic-relief.org/islamic+Relief+acts+swiftly+and+creates+new+board>.

⁵ <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/islamic-aid-director-resigns-after-getting-called-out-for-antisemitism-649171>.

⁶ https://www.ngo-monitor.org/ngos/islamic_relief_worldwide_irw_/.