Question for written answer E-003976/2021/rev.1 to the Commission Rule 138 Julie Lechanteux (ID)

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Subject: Afghanistan: management of European funds after the Taliban takeover

Following the G7 videoconference on 24 August 2021, the Commission announced that humanitarian aid to Afghanistan would be almost quadrupled.

Ursula von der Leyen said that the Commission would now disburse EUR 200 million in humanitarian aid to Afghanistan for 2021, rather than EUR 57 million as initially planned.

European financial aid to Afghanistan for the period 2021-2027 amounts to EUR 1 billion.

The move came as even more of a surprise given that the European institutions have just urgently repatriated EU personnel and evacuated local support staff, and that all international organisations and Western governments – in particular European ones – have closed their local offices.

Despite this, Commission spokesman Balazs Ujvari said there would be no interruption in the EU's humanitarian engagement in Afghanistan.

In order to minimise the risk of humanitarian aid being misappropriated by the Taliban, the areas benefiting from EU funds need to be vetted and carefully targeted, and non-negotiable conditions set for the receipt of such funds.

With the Taliban now in power, who will manage the millions of euros in European aid to Afghanistan once the Western powers have left?