

**Question for written answer E-005598/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Pina Picierno (S&D), Eva Kaili (S&D), Dietmar Köster (S&D), Frédérique Ries (Renew), Fulvio Martusciello (PPE), Carlo Fidanza (ECR), Ljudmila Novak (PPE), Bert-Jan Ruissen (ECR), Jessica Stegrud (ECR), Nicolaus Fest (ID), Gunnar Beck (ID), Olivier Chastel (Renew), Anna Fotyga (ECR), Gianna Gancia (ID), Juan Ignacio Zoido Álvarez (PPE), Carlo Calenda (Renew), Costas Mavrides (S&D)

Subject: Illegal funding to the Hamas terrorist organisation in the European Union

On 10 December 2021, the Italian newspaper *Repubblica* published an article exposing money flows from Italy to the Hamas terrorist organisation. The scheme involves several NGOs that aim to raise money and lobby European institutions, often by exploiting religious gatherings. Some of these associations, such as the 'Europeans for al-Quds Association' or the 'Charitable organisation of solidarity with the Palestinian People' are led by Mohammad Hannoun, infamous for his support to the families of Palestinian suicide bombers.

These non-transparent fundraising activities also involve radical Islamist preachers, such as the Jordanian cleric Riyadh al-Bustanji, who has often praised the idea of Palestinian 'child martyrs' and the martyrdom of Muslims for Palestine. Al-Bustanji has regularly attended Friday prayers in Italian cities, such as in the Omar mosque in Turin or in the Palasharp in Milan.

It appears that a very dense and non-transparent network might be operating in Italy to divert charity money to terrorist organisations such as Hamas. We would therefore like to ask:

1. Is the Commission aware of these networks operating in the EU?
2. Given the EU commitment to counterterrorism, does the Commission believe that the related EU financial framework is adequate against these kinds of radicalisation, recruitment and fundraising activities?