

**Question for written answer E-002173/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Dominique Bilde (ID)

Subject: Distribution of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan and the situation of women working in humanitarian organisations

The Commission has announced a near quadrupling of humanitarian aid to Afghanistan¹.

According to the UN Secretary-General, it will be impossible to distribute this aid without going through the Taliban². On 12 January 2022, the Taliban proposed a joint body composed of its officials and international representatives to coordinate international aid^{3,4}.

In the same month, they extended the 'food for work' programme using wheat, largely given by India to the previous government, to remunerate some public sector workers⁵.

According to Human Rights Watch, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has reportedly mapped the agreements between aid agencies and the Taliban in each of the 34 Afghan provinces, indicating where female personnel will be allowed to work. By 28 October 2021, Taliban officials in only three provinces had provided a written agreement unconditionally allowing humanitarian workers to do their work⁶.

1. Does the Commission intend to accept such a joint body or the possible use of this aid for a programme such as the one mentioned above?
2. Will the Commission accept the conditions referred to by Human Rights Watch?

¹ <https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/europe/2021/08/24/eu-to-quadruple-humanitarian-aid-to-afghanistan/>

² 'It is impossible to provide humanitarian assistance inside Afghanistan without engaging with the de facto authorities'. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/09/17/aid-funding-for-afghanistan-at-risk-of-taliban-misuse-corruption.html>

³ 'a joint body of its official and international representatives to help coordinate billions of dollars in planned aid.'

⁴ 'Taliban want greater role in distributing foreign aid in Afghanistan', Reuters. 12 January 2022.

⁵ 'Wheat, largely donated by India to the previous US-backed Kabul government, is being used to pay 40,000 workers.' <https://dailytimes.com.pk/868010/taliban-expand-food-for-work-programme-as-crisis-deepens/>

⁶ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/11/04/afghanistan-taliban-blocking-female-aid-workers>