

Question for written answer E-002962/2022/rev.1

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 138

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Subject: Misallocation and improper use of cooperation funds for Syria

The Commission's development and aid programmes under the International Partnerships Initiative require specific oversight and monitoring. This is important to avoid any misuse or misappropriation in regimes such as Syria. Recent reports such as 'Rescuing Aid in Syria' by the Center for Strategic and International Studies¹ emphasise the systematic manipulation of the current aid system and the regime's recognisable politicisation of humanitarian aid.

There are indications of misuse by directly or indirectly regime-associated or regime-controlled proxy organisations or bogus organisations. This is relevant for instance for the Action Grants Empowering Civil Society in Syria², the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights – Country Based Support Scheme Syria 2020³ and other country-related funding instruments.

1. Is the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) aware of cases of applications submitted by bogus regime-controlled organisations, and could he specify their number and volume?
2. Is he aware of disbursements of funds to bogus organisations, and could he specify the number and volume of applications?
3. What mechanisms and countermeasures does the VP/HR use or intend to use to preclude undesirable applications by and disbursements to proxy organisations?

¹ <https://www.csis.org/analysis/rescuing-aid-syria>

² EuropeAid/171974/DD/ACT/SY

³ EuropeAid/171857/DD/ACT/SY