

**Question for written answer E-003067/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Filip De Man (ID)

Subject: Development aid for Gaza and Hamas' financial assets

The EU has provided EUR 1.18 billion in financial aid to Gaza and the West Bank for the period 2021-2024, of which EUR 279 million has been earmarked for Gaza this year.

The Palestinian terrorist group Hamas has its own investment vehicle (so-called Hamas' Investment Office). Through companies, some of which are active in infrastructure works, mining, construction, real estate or crypto currencies, Hamas-affiliated figures channel substantial sums into Hamas' investment vehicle. Back in 2014, Forbes magazine named Hamas one of the richest terrorist groups in the world, with (in 2014) assets estimated at US 1 billion. Apart from its substantial annual income from, among other things, levies on goods imported into Gaza from Egypt, Hamas is reported to have about half a billion dollars in assets, according to German experts. Hamas, meanwhile, casts aside the Palestinian people, while training children to become terrorists.

1. Does the Commission agree that it is irresponsible to send financial aid to Gaza when the ruling party there has substantial financial assets and income, which should not be being used to fund terrorist acts but rather to help its own people?
2. How does the Commission prevent funds ending up in the hands of Hamas?

Submitted: 17.10.2023