

**Question for written answer E-000240/2024**

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

Rule 138

**Marco Zanni** (ID)

Subject: Statements by the Vice-President / High Representative on Israel's financing of Hamas

On Friday 19 January, during a speech at the University of Valladolid, the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell stated that Hamas had been financed by the State of Israel to weaken the Palestinian Authority.

Such statements are an affront to the integrity of Israel and to the families of the victims of the tragic attacks perpetrated by Hamas on 7 October 2023. They also risk undermining diplomatic relations between the European Union and the State of Israel, at a time when Tel Aviv needs unconditional support in waging its war against Hamas.

Can the Vice-President / High Representative therefore state:

1. On what sources and what factual evidence is he basing his claims?
2. Given the changing geopolitical landscape in the Middle East and the risk of escalation in the area, does he consider his statements to have been made at the appropriate time and to be compatible with the diplomatic duty entrusted to him?

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