

Question for written answer E-000260/2024

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: Suspending EU funding to UNRWA

Israeli intelligence recently announced that 12 staff members of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) were allegedly involved in the Hamas attack on Israel on 7 October 2023.

UN Secretary General, António Guterres, said that 'any UN employee involved in acts of terror will be held accountable, including through criminal prosecution'.

Several countries including Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States, and EU Member States such as Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands, have announced that they will temporarily be suspending payments to UNRWA, pending the outcome of an in-depth investigation.

Given that, as mentioned in the EU-UNRWA Joint Declaration 2021-2024, the EU is one of the agency's top annual donors and that the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the Commission, Josep Borrell Fontelles, announced the mobilisation of an additional EUR 10 million to the agency on 31 October 2023, can he answer the following questions:

1. Will the EU suspend funding to UNRWA until matter is clarified, as several Member States have already done?
2. What actions will it take to support a swift, comprehensive and independent investigation, also with a view to ensuring that no EU money lands in the hands of the terrorist organisation Hamas?

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