

**Question for written answer E-000354/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Rosa D'Amato (Verts/ALE), **Massimiliano Smeriglio** (S&D)

Subject: Suspension of the disbursement of funds for UNRWA in Gaza

On 27 January 2024, the Italian Government, together with other Member States of the European Union, announced that it planned to suspend funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), effectively freezing work by the most important agency working in the Gaza Strip, even though the humanitarian conditions there are out of control.

By contrast, a number of Member States stressed the importance of continuing to support the agency's work in assisting the population, which has been turned upside down by almost 4 months of war.

In a recent statement, the Commission said that it would assess whether and how to continue funding the agency, clarifying that no further funding would be provided for UNRWA until the end of February.

Can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. When is the next funding instalment for UNRWA expected and how much might it be?
2. Given the agency's importance in providing aid and protection to innocent civilians, what humanitarian impact might suspending that funding have?
3. Given the deteriorating state of affairs, how will the Commission continue to support the people of Gaza by means of partner organisations in the coming months?

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