

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0014/03
pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure
by Enrique Barón Crespo, on behalf of the PSE Group
to the Commission

Subject: Damage to EU- and Member State-funded projects in the Occupied Territories

The EU and its Member States have, historically, been the largest international donor for humanitarian and infrastructure projects within the Occupied Territories of the West Bank and Gaza.

However, since the beginning of the second Intifada, military operations by the Israeli Defence Force within the Occupied Territories have regularly caused material damage to EU-funded projects. On 25 September 2002, during the plenary part-session, I asked the Commission to report on ‘the destruction caused in Palestinian territory by the Israeli State and funded by the European budget’.

In this context, could the Commission provide a detailed qualitative and quantitative assessment of the damage to EU and Member State-funded projects caused by these operations?

Does the Commission believe that destruction of the Palestinian Authority’s infrastructure, including subsequent delays and suspension of projects, contributes in any way to the fight against terrorism? Does it, on the contrary, believe that it strengthens support for terrorism within the Palestinian population?

Following the submission of a first estimate of damages to the General Affairs Council on 28 January 2002, the Council asked the Government of Israel to put an end to this practice and reserved the right to claim reparations. Have reparations been claimed from the Government of Israel and, if so, what has been its response?

Tabled: 13.02.2003
Forwarded: 17.02.2003
Deadline for reply: 24.02.2003