

**Question for written answer P-015614/2015**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Bas Belder (ECR)**

Subject: EU funding to the Palestinian Authority

According to reports, the Palestinian Authority (PA) continues to pay stipends to convicted terrorists<sup>1</sup>, raising serious concerns. Stipends are used to encourage and, reportedly, also to finance further terrorist activities, including the murder of civilians.<sup>2</sup>

The PA claims that it stopped paying salaries to convicted terrorists when it closed its Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs. However, it has established a new commission under the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), and the stipends continue to be paid.<sup>3</sup>

This puts into question whether the EU, as a prominent donor to the PA, is unintentionally financing terrorism.

1. Does the Commission plan to introduce new legislation – such as a new directive – that will tighten the control on budgets allocated to the PA?
2. Given the EU's aspiration to re-launch the Middle East Peace Process, does the Commission agree that it is only appropriate and consistent for the EU – especially in light of the fact that terrorism runs counter to fostering peace, trust and stability in the region – to use its leverage to call on the PA to discontinue the monthly stipends to convicted terrorists?

The PA has closed its Ministry of Prisoners' Affairs, and has announced the establishment of a new PLO Commission of Prisoners' Affairs, which it claims would pay the salaries.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [http://mfa.gov.iMinistry of Prisoners' Affairs I/MFA/ForeignPolicy/Terrorism/Palestinian/Pages/ISA--IDF-apprehend-terror-cell-responsible-for-shooting-attacks-19-Jul-2015.aspx](http://mfa.gov.iMinistry%20of%20Prisoners%20Affairs%20I/MFA/ForeignPolicy/Terrorism/Palestinian/Pages/ISA--IDF-apprehend-terror-cell-responsible-for-shooting-attacks-19-Jul-2015.aspx).

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4691834,00.html>.

<sup>3</sup> In August 2014, the PA implemented another ruse to evade pressure from international donors.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.palwatch.org/main.aspx?fi=1005>.