

**Priority question for written answer P-002984/2023/rev.1  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Attack on Israel and checks on whether European aid funds are not ending up with the Islamic terror group Hamas

On Monday 9 October 2023 there was great confusion over whether or not to freeze European aid funds for the Palestinian territories. Commissioner Várhelyi announced that he would freeze funding, but was knocked back by his colleagues and a number of EU Member States. At the end of the afternoon, it became clear that the Commission would take a fresh look at whether or not aid funds were being used directly or indirectly for terrorist attacks on Israel.

I was astonished by that announcement. Does the Commission not then know whether European aid funds are going to the right recipients? The Islamic terror group Hamas, which has been on the European list of terrorist organisations for years, has controlled the Gaza Strip for 16 years and regularly carries out attacks on Israel. Surely, under the circumstances, maximum caution should have long been expected? Therefore:

1. What projects are being funded?
2. How is any potential corruption being combated?
3. What has the EU funded over the past 10 years and with what outcomes?

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