

**Priority question for written answer P-003362/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Urgent disbursement of Annual Action Plan funds for Palestine

According to a media report the Commission is proposing an unprecedented EUR 18 million funding plan for Israel and the Abraham Accords¹. Meanwhile, the 2023 Annual Action Plan (AAP) for Palestine (expected to be at least EUR 168 million) is still on hold and subject to a review. The Commission stated on 9 October that 'as there were no payments foreseen, there will be no suspension of payments²'. In a letter to President von der Leyen dated last 26 October, 76 MEPs urge her to swiftly disburse AAP and UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) funds³. While we welcome the Commission President's announcement that humanitarian aid to Palestinians in Gaza would be quadrupled, we are concerned about the delay in the disbursement of DG NEAR development aid to Palestine, as this funding is as urgently for the livelihoods of Palestinians as for stability and future solutions in Israel and Palestine.

1. Can the Commission confirm 2023 AAP has not been tabled yet, that this is Commissioner Várhelyi's responsibility and when exactly the Commission is planning to table it?
2. When does the Commission expect to disburse the AAP funds allocated, and also when EUR 10 million for UNRWA, approved by Parliament and Council, will be paid out?
3. Will the AAP include new elements following the 'review'?

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¹ <https://www.devex.com/news/eu-preps-18m-to-help-israel-with-regional-cooperation-106540>.

² https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/news/european-commission-announces-urgent-review-its-financial-assistance-palestine-2023-10-09_en

³ <https://x.com/jordisolef/status/1717978216353186130?s=20>.