Priority question for written answer P-000552/2024 to the Commission

Rule 138

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Subject: Funding for UNRWA, conditions, and the future of humanitarian aid to Palestinians in Gaza and the surrounding region

The Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, has said that the EU has not stopped funding the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)¹. In a statement², the Commission outlined three conditions that UNRWA is expected to meet. The Commission specified that no further funding to UNRWA is anticipated until the end of February, when the EU's annual contribution is due to be paid. Considering that UNRWA may encounter difficulties sustaining full operational capacity after the end of February unless certain donors that temporarily suspended their funding of UNRWA resume payment:

- 1. Can the Commission verify that its annual contribution to UNRWA of EUR 82 million will indeed be disbursed at the end of February, contingent upon UNRWA's commitment to meeting the conditions specified by the Commission?
- 2. Given that the EU is the third largest contributor to UNRWA, has the Commission evaluated the humanitarian and regional ramifications that might arise should the EU stop funding UNRWA?
- 3. In the event that the disbursement of funds is delayed, how will the Commission uphold its commitment to supporting the provision of essential services and humanitarian aid to Palestinians in Gaza and in the surrounding region?

Supporters³

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¹ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/defunding-unrwa-would-be-both-disproportionate-and-dangerous en.

https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/news-stories/news/european-commission-statement-unrwa-2024-01-29 en.

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