

**Priority question for written answer P-001033/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Macro-financial assistance to Egypt under Article 213 TFEU

On 15 March 2024, Commission President von der Leyen addressed a letter to Parliament President Metsola regarding the intention of the Commission to disburse EUR 1 billion of macro-financial assistance to Egypt using the emergency procedure in Article 213 TFEU, which allows the adoption of funding decisions without Parliament's consent 'when the situation in a third country requires urgent financial assistance from the Union'. Ms von der Leyen justifies the emergency procedure by referring to the economic and geopolitical situation in Egypt.

1. Taking into consideration the recent Ras al-Hekma deal¹with the UAE (USD 35 billion), the loan agreement with the IMF²expanding support by USD 5 billion, as well as World Bank's decision to provide a USD 6 billion loan³, how does the Commission justify the urgency and relevance of the EUR 1 billion payment to Egypt?
2. The letter attributes Egypt's economic problems to 'external shocks' such as the conflicts in Ukraine, Gaza and Sudan. Can the Commission provide data demonstrating that those conflicts are a significant cause of Egypt's economic and financial crisis?
3. Given that respect for human rights and effective democratic mechanisms are pre-conditions for the granting of macro-financial assistance, and considering that the UN has repeatedly expressed its concerns about human rights violations in Egypt, what is the justification for such unconditional funding?

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¹ <https://www.newarab.com/news/ras-al-hekma-egypt-secures-5-billion-uae-downpayment>.

² <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2024/03/06/pr-2459-egypt-staff-and-authorities-reach-agreement-on-reviews-under-the-eff-arrangement>.

³ <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-03-18/world-bank-to-provide-egypt-with-over-6-billion-in-support>.