

**Question for written answer E-000745/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL), João Ferreira (GUE/NGL), João Pimenta Lopes (GUE/NGL), Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL), Luke Ming Flanagan (GUE/NGL), Patrick Le Hyaric (GUE/NGL), Marisa Matias (GUE/NGL), Eleonora Forenza (GUE/NGL), Neoklis Sylikiotis (GUE/NGL), Dimitrios Papadimoulis (GUE/NGL), Nikolaos Chountis (GUE/NGL), Barbara Spinelli (GUE/NGL), Paloma López Bermejo (GUE/NGL), Dennis de Jong (GUE/NGL), Malin Björk (GUE/NGL), Martina Michels (GUE/NGL), Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL), Marie-Christine Vergiat (GUE/NGL), Helmut Scholz (GUE/NGL), Maria Lidia Senra Rodríguez (GUE/NGL), Ángela Vallina (GUE/NGL), Lynn Boylan (GUE/NGL), Matt Carthy (GUE/NGL), Liadh Ní Riada (GUE/NGL), Martina Anderson (GUE/NGL), Sofia Sakorafa (GUE/NGL), Takis Hadjigeorgiou (GUE/NGL), Marie-Pierre Vieu (GUE/NGL), Josu Juaristi Abaunz (GUE/NGL), Keith Taylor (Verts/ALE), Brando Benifei (S&D), Ivo Vajgl (ALDE), Norbert Neuser (S&D) and Marita Ulvskog (S&D)

Subject: Reduction in US funding for UNRWA

The US government recently announced a significant cut in its aid to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), from USD 350 million to USD 60 million.

UNRWA currently manages more than 700 schools in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Palestine (the West Bank and Gaza Strip), attended by approximately 525 000 children. It also provides health services of enormous importance (managing 140 health centres which are responsible for around 9 million examinations per year), from primary healthcare to reproductive clinics. It also provides construction aid for housing.

With this huge cut, all of the assistance provided in the past is now at risk, increasing the suffering of the martyred people of Palestine and opening the way to the aggravation of the consequences of a conflict that has been going on for decades.

- 1) Given the urgency of this situation, which puts at stake basic services that benefit the most vulnerable sections of the Palestinian population, what are the possibilities for increasing the EU's contribution, and what measures will be taken to ensure continuity of services?
- 2) What is the EU's position on the US government's announcement, and what actions or efforts is the EU planning at UN level to raise more funds for UNRWA?