



Ms Ursula VON DER LEYEN  
President of the European Commission  
Brussels  
Belgium

Brussels, 7 April 2026

Madam President,

On 5 December, together with several parliamentary colleagues, I submitted a written question to the European Commission (E-004832/2025) regarding documented risks of interference by Hamas within NGOs funded by the European Union in Gaza, as well as the mechanisms intended to prevent any diversion of EU funds towards terrorist activities.

The reply endorsed by Commissioner Hadja Lahbib on 13 March 2026 raises serious concerns on my part.

On the one hand, the Commission states that it is not aware of such diversions of funds, despite documented elements that have been brought to the public's attention.

On the other hand, and more fundamentally, it appears to introduce a form of relativity in the application of the prohibition on the financing of terrorism. By referring to a principle that would apply only "under certain conditions" and by directing me to Financial Regulation 2024/2509, the Commissioner seems to suggest that the European Union could prove unable to prevent the financing, even indirectly, of entities linked to a designated terrorist organisation where certain conditions are not met.

Such wording is, as it stands, deeply troubling. It introduces ambiguity where the European Union has always maintained a line of strict zero tolerance. There are no circumstances, no exceptions and no grey areas that could allow the European Union to tolerate, even passively, any contribution to terrorist activities. I cannot believe that the European Union could, under any circumstances, finance terrorism, even indirectly or "under conditions".

I would therefore be grateful if you could unequivocally clarify the Commission's position. Beyond the theoretical principles set out in the Financial Regulation, particularly Article 138, I kindly ask you to specify:

1. The concrete, effective and verifiable safeguards put in place to prevent any risk, even indirect, of EU funds being diverted to Hamas or to any terrorist organisation.
2. The control, audit and monitoring measures effectively applied to NGOs and beneficiary entities operating in Gaza.

3. The concrete and immediate consequences drawn by the Commission where a proven risk of links with a terrorist organisation is identified, including the immediate suspension of the funding concerned, as well as the exclusion and sanctions applicable to beneficiaries until full compliance guarantees have been restored and verified.

Thank you in advance for the attention you will give to this matter, which concerns the credibility of the European Union's action and citizens' trust in the use of their funds.

Yours sincerely,

Céline IMART

