**The European Union must pay its contribution to UNRWA without delay**

This week, the European Commission is supposed to transfer its contribution of more than €80 million to UNRWA, the specialised United Nations agency responsible for helping Palestinian refugees in Gaza, but also in the West Bank, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

Following the accusations made by Israel concerning the involvement of 10 of its employees in the terrorist attack on 7 October, UNRWA immediately suspended the people concerned. An internal investigation within the United Nations system has been launched, as well as an independent investigation requested by the European Union. It will of course take quite a long time to conclude these two investigations.

If the European Union does not transfer the contribution expected this week, UNRWA risks having to suspend its activities very quickly due to an already glaring lack of resources.

UNRWA provides the two million or so Palestinians forcibly displaced in Gaza with a minimum of humanitarian aid in terms of both food and health. It also provides essential support on a daily basis, particularly in terms of health and education, to the millions of Palestinian refugees in the West Bank, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

To accomplish these tasks, everybody knows that no other international or regional institution, nor any other United Nations agency, is in a position to rapidly replace UNRWA.

In these circumstances, we call on the European Commission to pay the full contribution due to UNRWA on time. Any delay in such a payment could lead to famine and the death of thousands of Palestinian civilians in Gaza. The European Union cannot and must not under any circumstances be accused of complicity in such a crime against humanity.

**MEPs signatories** :

**SATOURI Mounir**, Verts/ALE, France

**STRIK Tineke**, Verts/ALE, Pays-Bas

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