

Question for written answer E-014412/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Merja Kyllönen (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Failure of project cofinanced by the EU with UNRWA relating inter alia to the building of a system to manage drinking water, waste water and rainwater at the Shatila refugee camp in Lebanon

Access to clean water is a basic necessity. However, the right to acceptable water is not being respected at the Shatila refugee camp in Beirut, Lebanon. The water obtainable from the pipe network at the refugee camp is salty and harmful to health.

An EU project has been carried out in the area jointly with UNRWA, with the aim of building a water supply system for Shatila and other refugee camps as well. On paper, the plans and the assessment work look good: a water main and pipes have been installed at Shatila. But no water comes.

For many families, particularly those who have fled to Lebanon from Syria, it is a serious additional burden to have to buy water, and the need to do so further reduces the resources available to meet children's needs.

The failed water project should be explained, and the actions responsible for its poor implementation should be investigated. At the camp, the 'remains' of the water system are regarded as signs of the corruption of EU and UN officials and local operators. The impunity enjoyed by those responsible is undermining confidence in all EU cooperation and is increasing the feeling of desperation among the Palestinian population.

Is the Commission aware of the failure of the project and its consequences, and what will it do to ensure, firstly, that the basic right to clean drinking water of those who are compelled against their will to live in the camp is respected and, secondly, that those people and bodies responsible for the situation are held accountable for their negligence?