

**Question for written answer E-002606/2023**

**to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**

Rule 138

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Subject: Antisemitic remarks by Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas

On 24 August 2023, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas claimed that the Holocaust was not caused by antisemitism<sup>1</sup>, but that Hitler ‘fought’ the Jews because they dealt with ‘usury, money and so on’.

Abbas has made similar antisemitic remarks in the past. In a May 2023 speech at the UN<sup>2</sup>, he likened Israelis to Nazis, saying that they ‘lie like Goebbels’. In August 2022, he accused Israel of having committed ‘50 holocausts’ against the Palestinians<sup>3</sup> and in 2018, he claimed that the Holocaust was caused by the ‘social role’ of Jews as money lenders. Unfortunately, such hatred continues to be taught through Palestinian schoolbooks, which are ultimately financed by the EU<sup>4</sup>.

Considering the above and the statement by the European External Action Service (EEAS) Spokesperson criticising the remarks<sup>5</sup>:

1. Does the VP/HR acknowledge that Abbas’s remarks not only ‘fuel’ antisemitism, in the EEAS Spokesperson’s words, but are in themselves deeply antisemitic, and that this pattern of antisemitism is a major obstacle to peace and incites terror?
2. Does the VP/HR intend to demand an apology from President Abbas?
3. Does the VP/HR agree with the European Parliament’s repeated requests to withhold some funding from the Palestinian Authority if it fails to finally remove all instances of antisemitism, incitement and glorification of terror from its textbooks?

Submitted: 8.9.2023

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.memri.org/reports/palestinian-president-mahmoud-abbas-hitler-fought-european-jews-because-their-usury-money>.

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/likening-israel-to-nazis-palestinian-leader-abbas-says-country-lies-like-goebbels](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/likening-israel-to-nazis-palestinian-leader-abbas-says-country-lies-like-goebbels).

<sup>3</sup> <https://apnews.com/article/middle-east-israel-germany-berlin-4fbcc9a9e088267b0de72eb809a1d9b0>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://owncloud.gei.de/index.php/s/FwkMw8NZgCAJgPW>.

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/palestine-statement-spokesperson-president-abbas-remarks-jews-and-antisemitism\\_en](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/palestine-statement-spokesperson-president-abbas-remarks-jews-and-antisemitism_en).