

**Question for written answer E-003081/2025  
to the Commission**  
Rule 144  
**Marc Botenga (The Left)**

**Subject:** The impact of EU sanctions on public health, especially in low- and middle-income countries

The Lancet Global Health has just published an article finding that over the last decade EU and US unilateral sanctions led to the death of 564 258 people annually, higher than the annual number of battle-related casualties<sup>1</sup>. The study notes how, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC), ‘all economic sanctions ultimately function as sanctions on health’, both directly (for example impact on access to medicines) and indirectly (for example impact on food security). The adverse effects of sanctions on health are most pronounced among children, women (versus men) and the most marginalised populations.

The Global Sanctions Database has calculated that the average rate of success of sanction policies is only about 30 % across all identified or stated policy objectives<sup>2</sup>.

1. Has the Commission made any assessment or analysis at all of the public health and/or socio-economic impact of EU sanctions on LMIC?
2. Does the Commission have any figures that suggest a different kind of success rate of sanction policies in regard to their stated policy objectives?
3. In the light of this and similar studies, does the Commission consider unilateral economic sanctions to be a legitimate and appropriate policy tool?

Submitted: 24.7.2025

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(25\)00189-5/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(25)00189-5/fulltext).

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0014292120301914>.