

Question for written answer E-003377/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Russian cryptocurrency bypasses EU sanctions to move capital across borders and to fund political influence campaigns abroad

A new cryptocurrency token, the A7A5, allows for Russia to make cross-border payments despite Western sanctions. Launched by a fugitive Moldovan oligarch and a Russian defence sector bank sanctioned by the EU, the token moved some USD 9.3 billion on a dedicated crypto exchange in just four months after it was launched, the *Financial Times* has found¹. The token has become one of Moscow's most powerful tools for bypassing Western sanctions to move Russian capital across borders to fund political influence campaigns abroad. According to earlier reports, Russia has been using other cryptocurrencies to facilitate oil trade with China and India, again bypassing Western sanctions. The Russian Central Bank even encourages the use of crypto to evade sanctions².

In the light of the above:

1. Will the Commission follow the example of the UK and sanction the cross-border trade platform A7, its owners and its backers?
2. Can and will the owners of these exchange platforms implicated in sanctions evasion be held criminally liable?
3. What other measures can the Commission take, together with other partners and authorities, to counter the use of cryptocurrencies to bypass sanctions on Russia?

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¹ Ivanova, P., Hawkins, O. and Hemingway, E., 'Crypto coin for Russian shadow payments moves \$9bn', *Financial Times*, 25 June 2025, <https://www.ft.com/content/1c71cac0-b86b-4361-8f54-ee5d3bb5a489>.

² 'Russian regulator encourages use of crypto to counter sanctions', *Euractiv*, 4 July 2024, <https://www.euractiv.com/section/global-europe/news/russian-regulator-encourages-use-of-crypto-to-counter-sanctions/>.