

**Question for written answer E-004012/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Marc Botenga (The Left)

Subject: Commission claims regarding the negative consequences of EU sanctions on the Iranian people

During the plenary debate of 8 October 2025 regarding the implementation of sanctions on Iran, the Commission claimed EU sanctions are designed to avoid ‘unintended negative consequences’ for the Iranian population, and even to avoid all ‘negative consequences that would hit the Iranian people’¹.

This is a remarkable assertion as an increasing body of scientific literature outlines the negative health impact of the sanctions. Researchers found strong evidence that economic sanctions were significantly restricting the access of the Iranian people to medicines for non-communicable diseases², with dramatic impacts documented specifically for cancer patients³, including for radiotherapy treatment⁴, as well as for asthma⁵, thalassaemia and haemophilia patients⁶. Media recently also reported that there were insulin and thyroid pill shortages⁷. Previous rounds of sanctions even saw a 14-fold price increase for dietary formula for infants with food allergies⁸. Economic and financial sanctions can hamper the import of medicines or medical supplies as well.

1. How exactly does the Commission ensure that EU sanctions do not entail the negative consequences scientific research attributes to such kind of sanctions?
2. What impact assessments or evaluations does the Commission have that disprove the conclusions of the above studies?

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¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/CRE-10-2025-10-08-ITM-016_EN.html.

² <https://www.emro.who.int/emhj-volume-24-2018/volume-24-issue-1/impact-of-economic-sanctions-on-access-to-noncommunicable-diseases-medicines-in-the-islamic-republic-of-iran.html>.

³ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26344426/>.

⁴ [https://www.clinicaloncologyonline.net/article/S0936-6555\(17\)30545-9/fulltext](https://www.clinicaloncologyonline.net/article/S0936-6555(17)30545-9/fulltext).

⁵ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/27980593/>.

⁶ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0168851014003455?via%3Dihub>.

⁷ <https://www.iranintl.com/en/202507309255>.

⁸ [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(19\)31763-5/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(19)31763-5/fulltext).