Question for written answer E-004941/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Extraterritorial sanctions leading to 'debanking' of EU citizens and officials of EU-supported institutions

Recent cases have shown financial and digital service providers to have denied services to EU citizens targeted by extraterritorial US sanctions – namely UN Special Rapporteur Albanese and International Criminal Court Judge Guillou – as a result of compliance concerns. In both cases, access to essential banking and payment services in the EU was restricted despite the individuals operating legally under EU jurisdiction. Such practices are contrary to EU law and undermine fundamental principles such as judicial independence, multilateral accountability and financial sovereignty. They also raise questions about EU payment service obligations, including continuity of service in the internal market.

In this context:

1. How does the Commission assess the implications of such cases for the integrity of EU law, the independence of international institutions, and the EU's ability to protect citizens from extraterritorial foreign sanctions?

2. Does the Commission intend to reinforce the enforcement of the EU Blocking Statute and provide short-term tools (including EU-backed protected payment channels), while supporting EU-based financial and payment providers through growth opportunities and regulatory incentives to reduce dependence on non-EU payment infrastructures?

3. Will the Commission engage diplomatically at UN level and with the United States to ensure extraterritorial measures do not hinder the EU's ability to safeguard its financial and digital sovereignty and protect EU citizens and EU-supported institutions from foreign coercive measures?

Supporters[1]

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[1] This question is supported by Members other than the authors: César Luena (S&D), Jonas Sjöstedt (The Left).