

**Question for written answer E-003610/2026/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Raquel García Hermida-Van Der Walle (Renew)

Subject: Taliban statements in the Financial Times

In a recent interview with the Financial Times¹, the Taliban regime's de facto Foreign Minister reportedly expressed the hope that EU-hosted talks with Taliban representatives in June 2026 would lead to the easing or lifting of sanctions, which he claimed had failed to achieve their intended objectives.

In its reply to Written Question P-002653/2026², the Commission stated that the discussions were strictly limited to procedural steps concerning the readmission of Afghan nationals and noted that consular services fall within the competence of the Member States. However, decisions concerning EU restrictive measures and sanctions relief fall within EU competence.

In the light of this:

1. Had the Taliban indicated prior to the June meeting that sanctions relief, economic support or other forms of economic concessions were among its expectations or requests in connection with cooperation on the return and readmission of Afghan nationals?
2. Can the Commission confirm that, at no point during the June meeting, were the easing or lifting of EU restrictive measures, sanctions relief, or any other form of economic support or benefit for the Taliban discussed, either formally or informally?

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¹ <https://www.ft.com/content/92cc40a7-3047-46d6-86f5-aa5f59f1d0ac?syn-25a6b1a6=1>.

² https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/P-10-2026-002653_EN.html.