

**Question for written answer E-004015/2026
to the Commission**

Rule 144

Dick Erixon (ECR), Beatrice Timgren (ECR), Charlie Weimers (ECR), Kristoffer Storm (ECR)

Subject: Use of cryptocurrency to divert EU development aid

A recent study by the National Bureau of Economic Research examined USD 238 billion in World Bank aid disbursements to 93 countries between 2018 and 2024. It found sharp increases in cryptocurrency activity immediately following aid disbursements, particularly through anonymous and newly created wallets. The authors estimated implied leakage of USD 2–6 cents per aid dollar, corresponding to USD 1.7–4.4 billion across the disbursements studied. They also found that sectors in which diversion was detected continued to receive substantial subsequent funding¹.

The EU's NDICI–Global Europe instrument alone provides EUR 79.5 billion for external action during 2021–2027.

Against this background:

1. Has the Commission investigated whether comparable patterns have occurred following EU aid disbursements, and can it estimate how much EU development funding may be lost to fraud or corruption through cryptocurrency diversion?
2. Will the Commission use blockchain analysis and other financial-forensic tools to trace EU funds and suspend or recover payments where evidence of diversion is identified?
3. Does the Commission consider that EU funding should continue to governments, programmes or sectors where credible evidence indicates that previous aid has been diverted?

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¹ Agarwal et al, Crypto Capture of Foreign Aid, <https://www.nber.org/papers/w35655>.