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Answer given by Ms Albuquerque
on behalf of the European Commission
(12.9.2025)

The EU does not impose any constraints as to the counterparties or the activities that credit institutions may choose to provide financing to, as long as those counterparties and activities comply with existing EU legislation. Authorising the taking up and supervising the pursuit of banking activities in the EU is an administrative and regulatory process that is handled by competent authorities, not the Commission.

While the Commission monitors developments in Member States related to the funding of national political parties, including in the context of its annual Rule of Law Reports¹, it does not have a general power to intervene in such matters. Member States are competent to lay down the rules regarding the functioning and funding of national political parties, and national authorities are responsible for ensuring compliance with national legislation, international standards and the values enshrined in the Treaties.

The Commission supports Member States in their efforts to ensure the fairness and integrity of elections through its European Cooperation Network on Elections², including by promoting a level playing field among political parties in the electoral process.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/upholding-rule-law/rule-law/annual-rule-law-cycle_en .

² https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/democracy-eu-citizenship-anti-corruption/democracy-and-electoral-rights/european-cooperation-network-elections_en.