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Answer given by Ms Albuquerque
on behalf of the European Commission
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EU sanctions regulations are directly applicable in all Member States and, accordingly, the freezing of assets is usually carried out by relevant EU economic operators. In accordance with the applicable legal obligations, reporting about the frozen assets is made first to the national competent authorities of Member States and, second, by those authorities to the Commission.

When considering the value of frozen assets, it is important to bear in mind that for certain types of assets (e.g. securities) the value can be particularly affected by market fluctuations. In parallel, EU sanctions provide for several derogations, with the ensuing effect that where national competent authorities decide to grant an authorisation to that end, the overall value of frozen assets decreases. Overall, the variations observed in the total amounts frozen are thus not necessarily indicative of funds ‘disappearing’ but can instead reflect the outcome of market fluctuations and possible authorisations granted to release funds under the available derogations.

As far as interest is concerned, as a rule, interest owed to the owner of the frozen funds continues to accrue to the owner but remains equally frozen. As part of its regular contacts with Member States on frozen assets reporting, the Commission has reached out to the Danish authorities on the matter raised.