

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004295/25
to the Commission
Fabio De Masi (NI)
(3 November 2025)**

Subject: Closure of Frédéric Baldan's bank accounts in connection with 'Pfizergate'

The former lobbyist Frédéric Baldan brought legal action against the President of the European Commission in connection with Pfizergate. In October 2025, he reported that his bank accounts with ING and Nagelmackers had been terminated ⁽¹⁾. According to Baldan, this concerned not only his own personal bank account, but also those of his consulting firm and household, as well as his five year old son's savings account. This development raises questions as to possible links between the legal dispute and the action taken by the financial institutions.

Does the Commission have any evidence suggesting that the closure of the bank accounts is linked to Frédéric Baldan's Pfizergate-related activities?

Submitted: 3.11.2025

**Answer given by Ms Albuquerque on behalf of the European Commission
(19 December 2025)**

The Commission does not have any information suggesting that the closure of the bank accounts of the person mentioned in the subject of the question would be linked to the court proceedings mentioned in the question.

Credit institutions, like other economic operators, have in principle the freedom to decide with whom they want to enter into a contract or maintain a business relationship.

Yet, the Payment Services Directive (PSD) ⁽¹⁾ provides certain rules for the termination of payment accounts for example that payment service providers are only able to terminate payment accounts if this possibility is provided in the contract with the client and are obliged to give at least a 2- month notice to the client.

To ensure citizens have access to basic banking services, the Payment Accounts Directive (PAD) ⁽²⁾ provides all EU consumers the right to a payment account with basic features (PABF) and sets out only a limited number of reasons which can justify the refusal for opening a PABF, such as that the opening of the account would lead to an infringement of anti-money laundering rules.

In addition, unilateral closure of a PABF by the bank is also only allowed for limited reasons such as that the consumer is no longer legally resident in the EU or has deliberately used the account for illegal purposes.

¹ <https://www.berliner-zeitung.de/politik-gesellschaft/geopolitik/eu-pfizergate-lobbyist-baldan-anzeige-von-der-leyen-banken-konten-li.10003100>

⁽¹⁾ Article 55 of Directive (EU) 2015/2366 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on payment services in the internal market, amending Directives 2002/65/EC, 2009/110/EC and 2013/36/EU and Regulation (EU) No 1093/2010, and repealing Directive 2007/64/EC, OJ L 337, 23.12.2015.

⁽²⁾ Directive 2014/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 on the comparability of fees related to payment accounts, payment account switching and access to payment accounts with basic features, OJ L 257, 28.8.2014, pp. 214-246.