

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004462/25
to the Commission
Liudas Mažylis (PPE)
(11 November 2025)**

Subject: China's biased conduct towards Lithuanian financial institutions

On 13 August 2025, China announced the imposition of sanctions on two Lithuanian financial institutions, UAB Urbo Bankas and AB Mano Bankas, restricting their access to the Chinese market and financial services. This decision taken by Beijing was clearly a response to the EU's 18th sanctions package against certain Chinese financial institutions involved in helping Russia to evade sanctions. The Chinese Government has therefore imposed economic measures on specific financial entities in a Member State. This situation raises questions about China's economic coercion against EU Member States and the Community's ability to respond to such attacks in a unified manner.

1. How does the Commission view China's decision of 13 August 2025 to impose sanctions on the Lithuanian banks Urbo Bankas and Mano Bankas, and what countermeasures have been taken at EU level?
2. Does the Commission intend to initiate additional measures or dispute settlement procedures within the World Trade Organisation regarding China's economic pressure against an EU Member State?
3. Would the Commission consider proposing a new mechanism to ensure a collective EU response when a Member State is targeted by economic or political sanctions imposed by third countries?

Submitted: 11.11.2025

**Answer given by Ms Albuquerque on behalf of the European Commission
(21 January 2026)**

The Commission condemns the measures announced by the Chinese authorities against two financial entities based in Lithuania.

The Commission is following the situation closely and is currently engaging in bilateral discussions with China to address the issue. While the Commission is considering its next steps at the EU level, it is not in a position to disclose the details of the actions under consideration.

The Commission will remain vigilant to ensure that third countries' financial and credit institutions do not frustrate EU sanctions or support Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.
