(English version)

Question for written answer E-001449/26
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Per Clausen (The Left)
(9 April 2026)

Subject: Practical measures relating to sanctions against individuals

With regard to EU sanctions against individuals in the EU who do not have the wealth and opportunities of oligarchs, concerns have been raised about how, in practical terms, the individuals concerned are supposed to pay for essentials (from food and nappies to medicine and rent) for themselves and their spouses or children, as they cannot work or access their savings. This issue raises a number of humanitarian issues that are still unclear.

With this in mind, could the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy please explain what specific approaches and measures are being taken in this regard, and answer the following questions:

1. How can individuals who are EU nationals or permanent residents of an EU country, and who are subject to sanctions, continue to be able to pay for the essentials that they need to survive, including food, medicine and a roof over their head?

2. How can we ensure that sanctions on individuals with dependent family members (spouses and children) residing permanently in an EU country do not unduly penalise those family members, while maintaining the primary idea behind the sanctions?

3. How many EU citizens and permanent residents of an EU country are currently subject to EU sanctions, and for how long have they been subject to those sanctions?

Submitted: 9.4.2026

Answer given by Ms Albuquerque on behalf of the European Commission
(15 June 2026)

Restrictive measures (sanctions) serve as one of the EU's foreign policy instruments designed to address global challenges and crises, such as human rights violations, infringements of international law, or threats to peace and security. The EU's restrictive measures are targeted, proportionate, temporary in nature, and of non-punitive character.

The Commission is committed to mitigating any unforeseen humanitarian implications of EU restrictive measures and to ensuring that they are implemented in a manner that respects the fundamental rights of individuals and their dependents.

All EU sanctions regimes include derogations for listed individuals and their dependent family members to cover basic needs such as food, medicine, rent or mortgage payments, and other essential living costs. Individuals facing difficulties, including designated EU nationals or permanent residents, may request derogations from the competent national authorities of relevant Member States to cover such necessary expenses.

While Member States are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of EU restrictive measures, the Commission monitors the application of these derogations to help ensure consistency across the EU.

To enhance transparency, the Commission provides the EU Sanctions Tracker tool, offering a comprehensive overview of current individual listings under EU restrictive measures ([1]).

The tool allows for public scrutiny of designations, which remain temporary and subject to periodic review by the Council of the EU. Over 4 000 individuals are currently subject to EU restrictive measures. Out of these, only a few have the nationality of a Member State or are permanent residents of a Member State.

([1]) https://data.europa.eu/apps/eusanctionstracker/.