

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-003795/26
to the Commission
Fabio De Masi (NI)
(22 September 2026)**

Subject: Refusal of access to the European Parliament due to sanctions imposed by Ukraine against Iuliia Mendel

Iuliia Mendel, the former press secretary to the Ukrainian President Volodymyr Oleksandrovyh Zelenskyy, was subject to sanctions imposed by the Ukrainian President. As a result, she was denied access to the European Parliament building. ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾

To what extent do sanctions imposed in Ukraine have direct legal effect within the EU, given that Ukraine has significant shortcomings when it comes to the rule of law, Iuliia Mendel is not on a European sanctions list and Ukraine is not a Member State of the EU?

Submitted: 22.9.2026

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(28 October 2026)**

The Commission is not in position to comment the basis on which the European Parliament reportedly denied access to the former press secretary to the Ukrainian President to the European Parliament premises. The matter should be addressed directly to the relevant services of the European Parliament.

Sanctions imposed by non-EU countries do not create direct legal effects within the EU. The EU acts in accordance with its own established legal framework.

¹ <https://www.ft.com/content/f395dab5-29cd-401b-bbaa-a546da9908e3?syn-25a6b1a6=1>.

² <https://www.lefigaro.fr/international/l-ancienne-porte-parole-de-volodymyr-zelensky-ioulia-mendel-affirme-avoir-ete-privee-de-discours-au-parlement-europeen-20260916>.