

**Question for written answer E-005632/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: What is the Commission doing to protect European banks?

BNP Paribas is preparing to pay EUR 8.9 billion in return for the USA dropping criminal proceedings against it. The bank is charged with authorising dollar transactions to countries that are the subject of US sanctions. Let us not forget that the UN General Assembly publicly denounces the US embargo of Cuba on a yearly basis. The transactions in question were not in breach of international law, but the United States takes the view that every dollar in circulation is part of its territory and thus reserves the right to penalise companies or individuals anywhere in the world.

How can the Commission accept this extra-territorial application of American law?

This is a political penalty, not a judicial one: the case has never been heard in an open court. Does the Commission intend to respond to this act of economic war by the United States against Europe?

Other European banks – Crédit Agricole and Société Générale (France), Deutsche Bank and Commerzbank (Germany) and Unicredit (Italy) – are the subject of a spate of similar proceedings for breaches of the US sanctions. Is the Commission planning to introduce any measures to protect European banks?