

**Question for written answer E-006570/2017  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Blocking of Cuba solidarity accounts by the Dutch bank ING

The Germany-Cuba Friendship Association (Freundschaftsgesellschaft BRD-Kuba) was organising donations in solidarity with Cuba following the devastation caused by Hurricane Irma, but unfortunately the Dutch bank ING became a blocking factor, allying itself with the adverse US policies toward Cuba.

The bank refused to receive and transfer funds on the grounds that ING does not perform transactions 'relating directly or indirectly to certain countries', namely Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Sudan and Syria. The failure to bring about the necessary normalisation of relations between Cuba and EU Member States is very worrying. However, this is only possible through the lifting of the US blockade against Cuba, which is still supported by some EU Member States.

1. What is the position of the Union with regard to the ING Bank seeking to prevent European citizens from helping the Cuban people, victims of Hurricane Irma in Cuba?
2. What action will the EU take to lift the blockade and sanctions against Cuba?