

**Question for written answer E-001034/2019  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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**Subject:** The decision not to include Russia on the list of high-risk third countries with strategic deficiencies in their anti-money-laundering and anti-terrorism-financing regimes

On 13 February 2019, the Commission adopted a list of third countries with 'strategic deficiencies in their anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing frameworks'<sup>1</sup>.

The creation of that list is a welcome response to a number of money laundering scandals involving European banks. Danske Bank was, for example, charged with laundering over EUR 200 billion in funds from Russia at the end of 2018<sup>2</sup>.

Similarly, a so-called laundromat scheme involving a global network of banks under which USD 20 billion were moved out of Russia via Moldova was uncovered in 2014<sup>3</sup>.

Russia is not one of the 23 countries listed by the Commission.

1. Given the involvement of high-ranking members of the Russian Government in several money laundering schemes, including those mentioned above, why was Russia not included on the list adopted on 13 February 2019?
2. The Russian Federation was included on a list of 54 'priority jurisdictions' that are under review. On the basis of what criteria did the Commission ultimately decide not to include Russia on the list of high-risk third countries and is the Commission not concerned that its decision could be seen as a tacit approval of Russia's money laundering activities?
3. In addition to any objective criteria, did political considerations play a role in that decision, and if so, what were they?

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<sup>1</sup> [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-19-781\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-781_en.htm)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ft.com/content/6ae5f7f6-f324-11e8-ae55-df4bf40f9d0d>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.occrp.org/en/laundromat/russian-laundromat>