Question for written answer E-000816/2020

to the Commission

Rule 138

François-Xavier Bellamy (PPE)

Subject: Accidental Americans

‘Accidental Americans’ is the term used to describe 300 000 Europeans who, while born in the United States, only lived there for a very short while or not at all.

Ever since the vote on the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) in 2014, they have been targeted by the US Government, which is demanding they pay US taxes on income that is paid to them outside of America. ‘Accidental Americans’ who declare their income in the countries of which they are citizens and where they reside have even had to face the prospect of having their bank accounts closed. Banks have been threatened with having to pay almost 30 % in taxes on all their financial flows transiting through the United States. This state of affairs was placed on hold by an 18-month moratorium.

Will the Commission take action to defend its fellow citizens by guaranteeing them access to a bank account and fair treatment on tax, in order to protect them from the arbitrary extraterritorial application of this law? Are there plans to renegotiate the agreement on implementation of FATCA on an EU-wide basis, with identical reciprocal sharing obligations for both sides of the Atlantic?