

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1662/99

by Laura González Álvarez (GUE/NG) and Alonso Puerta (GUE/NG)  
to the Commission

Subject: Threat of US sanctions against Sol-Melià

The US Department of State is considering the possibility of imposing sanctions on the Spanish hotel group Sol-Melià on account of its investments in Cuba. The USA is planning to apply Title IV of the Helms-Burton Act, which the EU considers to be illegal because its scope extends beyond US territory. Such sanctions, if imposed, would affect international free trade and would damage the business interests of one of Spain's most representative tourism companies.

1. How real is the threat that sanctions may be imposed on Sol-Melià?
2. If sanctions were to be imposed, what action could the Commission take in order to protect Sol-Melià interests?
3. Would the Commission be willing to take up the issue of the Helms-Burton Act with the World Trade Organisation?