

**Question for written answer E-000372/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Antonio Maria Rinaldi (ID), Valentino Grant (ID)**

Subject: Cryptocurrencies and the need to implement legislation

On 25 November 2019 some valuable jewellery was stolen from Dresden Castle in Germany.

A private company, in charge of investigating the crime, discovered that the perpetrators were trying to sell some of the stolen jewellery on the dark web, asking to be paid in cryptocurrencies.

This confirms that cryptocurrencies can also be used for illegal trafficking and money laundering because of the anonymity of transactions.

The Fifth Anti-Money Laundering Directive, which should have been transposed by the Member States by 10 January 2020, introduced the obligation of customer due diligence for providers of currency exchange services and electronic wallet providers, but even the legislator admits that this measure is insufficient to counter the problem of anonymity in virtual currency transactions ‘... as a large part of the virtual currency environment will remain anonymous because users can also transact without such providers...’.

In view of the above, can the Commission say whether – given the potential illegal uses of cryptocurrencies – it will take action by adopting new precautionary rules in order to prevent these tools from being used for illegal purposes?