

**Question for written answer E-005014/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Christine Anderson (ID), Gunnar Beck (ID)**

**Subject:** Collective punishment and proportionality in connection with a cash ceiling

Within the EU a decision has been taken – on anti-money-laundering grounds – to introduce a ceiling for cash payments. This means in practice that innocent citizens not engaged in money laundering (i.e. virtually everyone in the EU Member States) will have their freedom curtailed and, accordingly, be increasingly deprived of their rights. Those citizens will therefore be punished for the illegal actions of others. This amounts to collective responsibility and collective punishment.

1. What is the Commission's position on collective punishment, and does it regard it as compatible with EU principles of freedom?
2. In an inflationary environment, such as at present, the effect of a rigid cash ceiling would be to lower it steadily in real terms if the nominal amount remained the same. To what extent does the Commission regard inflation linking of a cash ceiling as appropriate and useful?
3. What are the grounds for the Commission to determine a cash ceiling in terms of proportionality as regards the need to restrict rights in order to curb criminal activities, and would this measure not logically cause other criminal activities to be transferred elsewhere, meaning that it would do no more than punish only innocent people?