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Answer given by Ms McGuinness
on behalf of the European Commission
(19.10.2022)

The Commission closely follows any credible allegation of breaches reported, including in the media, and assesses the information provided and evaluates whether to bring the issue to the attention of national authorities. The Commission services are assessing the case in question and have raised it with the national competent authority.

The ultimate responsibility for the correct application and enforcement of EU sanctions rests with the Member States. Member States are responsible for identifying breaches. Furthermore, the task of conducting investigations into potential non-compliance cases falls within the competence of the different national competent authorities.

In cases where an allegation of breach is brought to the attention of a Member State, the Commission remains in contact with the national authorities concerning the investigations and their outcome. The EU has introduced a new listing criterion, which will allow it to sanction persons who facilitate the infringements of the prohibition against circumvention of sanctions.

In its role as guardian of the treaties, the Commission monitors the enforcement of EU law by Member States and can launch an infringement procedure against Member States for failure to comply with their obligations under EU law.