

**Question for written answer E-003920/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Karen Melchior (Renew)

Subject: Judgment of the Court in Joined Cases C-37/20: Elements of the Anti-Money-Laundering Directive deemed invalid

Last week, the Court of Justice of the European Union ruled that a provision of the Anti-Money-Laundering Directive that gave citizens a simple way to access information on the beneficiaries of companies was invalid.

This provision has empowered citizens and journalists, has helped uncover cases of tax evasion and money laundering and has revealed the long reach of Russian oligarchs in Europe. The decision to invalidate it puts the privacy of business owners before the public interest. It is a significant blow to transparency that will harm European citizens' trust in businesses.

It is therefore important for a solution to be put forward that addresses the Court's concerns.

1. Can Parliament count on the Commission to put forward legislation to restore this vital tool before the end of the mandate?
2. How does the Commission intend to reconcile business owners' privacy with the public's interest in accessing this information?

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