

**Question for written answer E-001818/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Domènec Ruiz Devesa (S&D), Thijs Reuten (S&D), Nacho Sánchez Amor (S&D)**

Subject: Sanctioning corruption in Lebanon

According to the World Bank, since October 2019, Lebanon has been 'assailed by the most devastating, multi-pronged crisis in its modern history'. This crisis is underpinned, among other factors, by deep-rooted corruption, which undermines the country's institutions.

Riad Salameh, the Governor of the Bank of Lebanon, represents a paradigmatic case of financial misconduct. He is under investigation by seven European countries and has also been accused by at least three judges in Lebanon. Several arrest warrants have been issued against him, the latest by France on 16 May 2023 and Germany on 23 May 2023. A red notice has been issued by Interpol. These investigations have been obstructed and judges have been harassed and ousted from office, showing a lack of willingness within Lebanon to combat corruption and promote reform.

- 1) In view of the upcoming revision of the Council framework adopted on 30 July 2021<sup>1</sup>, what steps will the Commission recommend to overcome the current situation of impunity?
- 2) Is the Commission ready to recommend sanctioning Mr Salameh and his associates under the Council framework adopted on 30 July 2021?

Submitted: 6.6.2023

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<sup>1</sup> Council Regulation (EU) 2021/1275 of 30 July 2021 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Lebanon (OJ L 277 I, 2.8.2021, p. 1), coupled with Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/1277 of 30 July 2021 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Lebanon (OJ L 277 I, 2.8.2021, p. 16).