

Question for written answer P-012987/2013/rev.1
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 117
Marietje Schaake (ALDE)

Subject: VP/HR - Review of restrictive measures against Iranian individuals

The EU has imposed restrictive measures (sanctions) against certain Iranian citizens on two grounds: involvement in and proliferation of Iran's nuclear programme, and involvement in human rights abuses in Iran. Only the first of these two grounds implements and/or complements UN sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

EU sanctions consist of travel restrictions (or visa bans) on individuals and their extended families and the freezing of their assets within EU jurisdiction. Sanctions are legally imposed by the EU through a series of regulations and decisions.

The lists of persons subject to sanctions on either ground are subject to political or legal review. Those subject to EU sanctions have the right to contest their legitimacy before the European Court of Justice (ECJ). Several such individuals, entities and companies have successfully contested their designation and the sanctions have been lifted. In other cases there has been no court judgment to explain the lifting of sanctions.

1. Can the Vice-President / High Representative explain how individuals are selected and designated for inclusion in annexes to EU regulations and decisions that impose individual sanctions (visa bans and asset freezes)? If it cannot do so, can it explain why not?
2. Can the Vice-President / High Representative explain on what grounds, other than ECJ judgments, individuals have previously been removed from these lists, both in relation to the nuclear programme and to human rights violations? If not, why not?
3. Can the Vice-President / High Representative confirm that political and diplomatic policies can lead to sanctions on individuals being lifted, whilst the grounds for the initial designation of these persons remain unchanged?
4. Does the Vice-President / High Representative consider that sanctions, especially those against individuals for involvement in human rights abuses, could form part of the EU's strategic and diplomatic policies towards Iran in the context of the P5+1 talks? If so, why?
5. Can the Vice-President / High Representative provide the number of cases in which individuals have successfully contested the lawfulness of the EU sanctions imposed on them? If not, why not?
6. Can the Vice-President / High Representative explain to what extent the EU can and does act autonomously from the UN regarding sanctions, particularly in the designation of individuals?