

**Question for written answer P-002683/2018**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Tokia Saïfi (PPE)**

Subject: VP/HR - Blocking process against US extra-territorial sanctions

Following the USA's decision to withdraw from the nuclear deal with Iran and reinstate extra-territorial sanctions against companies wishing to invest in the country, the Commission and the VP/HR announced, on 18 May 2018, that a process to block US sanctions would be launched. The sanctions would hit European companies very hard and have an adverse effect on our economy.

It has been made clear that the process would require the activation of the 1996 'Blocking Regulation' (Regulation EC No 2271/96), meaning that European companies would not be subject to sanctions imposed by a third country.

Could the VP/HR state:

- how long it will take for the 'Blocking Regulation' to take effect, and how she intends to implement the regulation so that our companies, in particular SMEs, will be able to use it simply and swiftly;
- what updates will be made to the 1996 regulation to ensure that it is able to address the current challenges;
- and what other steps and instruments will be put in place to guarantee and protect our companies' business interests abroad?