

**Priority question for written answer P-003483/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Crypto-asset service provider and anti-money laundering laws

On 21 November 2023, the Financial Times reported that Binance Chief Executive Changpeng Zhao had resigned and pleaded guilty to a US criminal charge of failure to protect against money laundering after federal prosecutors unveiled a sweeping case against the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange. The crypto exchange also pleaded guilty to a host of criminal charges related to money laundering and breaching international financial sanctions, agreeing to pay more than USD 4.3 billion in penalties, US authorities announced yesterday. The US Treasury Department said the exchange had failed to report 'well over 100 000 suspicious transactions' linked to ransomware attacks, child sexual abuse, large-scale hacks, the narcotics trade and terrorist groups including al-Qaeda and Daesh.

1. As Binance is also licensed in various Member States, does the Commission believe the company can continue being active in the EU, given the Regulation on markets in crypto-assets, which contains provisions (e.g. Article 24) on the authorisation of crypto-asset service providers, and given that it falls under the scope of the 5th Anti-Money Laundering Directive?
2. How will the Commission ensure the offences the company was found guilty of in the US will not take place in the EU?

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