

**Question for written answer E-000107/2025
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Is freezing the bank accounts of elected citizens and political opponents in France anti-democratic?

For a number of years, French banks have targeted certain opposition figures and political parties with no economic grounds for doing so¹. Consumers in comparable financial situations are not subjected to similar exclusion measures.

The forced account closures have even affected elected citizens who are not as well known. Worse still: their children's accounts have also been closed. Political liberty is, however, named in the preamble to the Statute of the Council of Europe as one of the three 'principles which form the basis of all genuine democracy', together with individual freedom and the rule of law².

In its 2024 Rule of Law Report chapter on France³, the Commission highlights the financial pressure put on certain civil society organisations (such as Anticor⁴), but fails to mention the banking discrimination suffered by critical political opponents or the removal of broadcasting slots from television channels (C8)⁵.

In view of Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's announced intention to introduce a European democracy shield⁶:

1. Will the Commission look into which banking operators in Europe discriminate against political opponents or their children by unilaterally closing their bank accounts?
2. Are such closures in line with EU consumer law?

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¹ <https://www.france24.com/fr/20171122-marine-pen-denonce-fatwa-bancaire-clotures-comptes-front-national-fn>

² https://www.venice.coe.int/images/SITE%20IMAGES/Publications/Rule_of_Law_Check_List.pdf

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52024SC0810>

⁴ The Commission was informed about government pressure regarding accreditation for anti-corruption association Anticor; https://www.bfmtv.com/politique/lutte-anticorruption-anticor-retrouve-son-agrement-apres-plus-d-un-an-de-lutte-et-de-multiples-recours_AD-202409060597.html; <https://urlr.me/9FcSj3>

⁵ Appeals brought by the C8 and NRJ 12 broadcasters were rejected by the Conseil d'État on Monday 30 December 2024. The two channels were challenging the fact their digital terrestrial television licences were not renewed by ARCOM; <https://urlr.me/pwEutg>

⁶ <https://fr.euronews.com/my-europe/2024/07/18/ursula-von-der-leyen-annonce-aux-eurodeputes-un-bouclier-pour-la-democratie>