

**Question for written answer E-004065/2021**

**to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**

Rule 138

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Subject: Protection of EU interests with the application of the Helms-Burton Law

The EU Blocking Statute [Council Regulation (EC) No 2271/96] was introduced to protect EU operators from extra-territorial application of third-country laws. However, it only has limited effect in practice.

The US Government began applying Title III of the Helms-Burton Law, which affects natural and legal persons in the European Union, in May 2019. Since then, 15 lawsuits have been filed against 18 EU companies. Title IV has also been applied to executives in the Sol Meliá chain and members of their families, and executives in two other companies with businesses in Cuba have been notified that it might be applied to them too.

1. Besides statements by the EU condemning this decision, what specific measures have been taken to ensure that EU businesses and citizens are not affected by the Helms-Burton Law?
2. Are there plans to set up a mechanism for Cuba similar to Instex?
3. What has been done to persuade the new US Government that it should suspend application of Titles III and IV of the Helms-Burton Law?