



European Parliament

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cc: Quaestors of the European Parliament

IBAN discrimination in the employment conditions of Accredited Parliamentary Assistants at the European Parliament

Dear Mr Ducoulombier,

First of all, let me thank you for the fruitful discussion on the EU Retail Payments Strategy at the recent webinar organised by DG FISMA. I look forward to our future work on the topic in a cooperative spirit.

During the webinar, you asked participants to point out instances of inadequate implementation or enforcement of EU rules to the Commission, in particular regarding IBAN discrimination. As I already pointed out in the chat box during the webinar, one clear case of IBAN discrimination is enshrined in the employment conditions of Accredited Parliamentary Assistants (APAs) at the European Parliament. Pursuant to Article 40 of the Implementing Measures for Title VII of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union (CEOS) of the Bureau of the European Parliament, APA salaries are "paid in euros in the country in which they perform their duties". In practice, the administration of the European Parliament refuses to pay salaries to Brussels-based APAs unless they provide a Belgian bank account with a Belgian IBAN. I have attached the current version of the Implementing Measures of the Bureau of the European Parliament to my email.

From my point of view, this constitutes a clear breach of Article 9 of the SEPA Regulation, which the Parliament has adopted itself. It is particularly embarrassing that a major European institution ignores EU law and undermines the Union's goal to develop a real banking union. The current requirement often creates practical difficulties for APAs when they move to Brussels to take up their duties, hindering their right of free movement. This underlines the importance of enforcing our common European rules to the benefit of our citizens. Therefore, I would kindly ask you to look into the rules in the European Parliament and answer me in writing how you judge them from the point of view of EU law.

Let me end with saying that the example of the European Parliament is only one of an endless list of lack of effective implementation of the SEPA rules. Therefore, I support all your activities in this regard. In particular, it seems crucial the Commission will open infringement procedures as soon as possible.

In cooperation,
Sven Giegold

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sven Giegold". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end.