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Mr. Andrea Enria
Chairperson of the European Banking Authority

Brussels, 25 November 2015

Dear Mr. Enria,

In view of the conclusions of the G20 Summit of 16 November on the need for more rapid and effective action against the financing of terrorist organisations, and taking into consideration that all Portuguese private banks have foreign shareholders with major stakes from jurisdictions such as Angola - a country considered as non-cooperative and high-risk by the Financial Action Office - which puts the Portuguese financial system in a very vulnerable situation, I would like to ask for some clarifications regarding the role of the European Banking Authority in ensuring compliance with European legislation and standards with regard to the prevention of money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

1 - Is there a specific action plan or technical guidance being elaborated by the European Banking Authority to combat money laundering and financing of terrorism, specifically when certain Member States have a high level of exposure to high risk jurisdictions through foreign investments and control of financial institutions? If not, how does the European Banking Authority monitor compliance of EU regulations in that regard, and engage with the national competent authorities to ensure a sound supervision?

2 - Does the European Banking Authority require national competent authorities to supply statistical and case-by-case information on foreign investment and ownership/control of national financial institutions originating from "offshore jurisdictions" (i.e. jurisdictions which uphold high level of banking and corporate secrecy, typically applying a low corporate tax rates)? If so, is this information made public?

3 - Specifically in the case of Portugal, has the European Banking Authority taken any action to ensure that Portuguese banks are fully implementing anti-money laundering legislation independently of the interests and origin of major shareholders and that the Bank of Portugal is upholding high standards of assessment of the suitability not only of those persons who effectively run the business of a credit institution but that also of major shareholders?

Regarding the same subject, I enclose the letter I have sent to the Bank of Portugal, for your information.

Best regards,

Ana Gomes
Member of the European Parliament