

# *U.S. Fines American Express Over Violation of Blockade*

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Washington, November 20 (RHC/PrensaLatina)-- The extraterritorial outreach of the U.S. blockade against Cuba came to the surface again when the U.S. Treasury Department announced that American Express will have to pay a fine of more than 200,000 dollars over an alleged violation of the Cuba blockade by one of its units.

The Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) said the penalty is related to infractions by the Belgian company BCC Corporate of financial regulations regarding Cuba.

An OFAC statement said at the time of the infraction, the European firm was a subsidiary of the Alpha Card Group, which was 50 percent property of American Express.

According to OFAC, from April 2009 until February 2014, credit cards issued by the Belgian BCCC to corporate clients were used in connection to purchases in Cuba.

The fining of American Express comes to join others imposed this year on U.S. and foreign companies, like those against the Alliance for Responsible Cuba Policy Foundation and the Canadian bank Toronto Dominion, totaling 10,000 and 955,000 dollars, respectively.

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