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Answer given by Ms Albuquerque
on behalf of the European Commission
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EU sanctions vis-à-vis Iran have been imposed in response to Iran's nuclear activities, human rights violations, destabilising activities in the Red Sea region, and its support to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. The recent reintroduction of nuclear-related sanctions on Iran emanates from a United Nations Security Council Resolution.

EU sanctions are always targeted and carefully calibrated and are designed to avoid unintended consequences for those not responsible for the actions leading to their adoption. EU sanctions are never aimed at the civilian population and do not target food, medicine, emergency supplies or humanitarian aid.

EU sanctions do not prohibit the export of medical or pharmaceutical products to Iran. Furthermore, EU sanctions vis-à-vis Iran provide for humanitarian exceptions under which humanitarian operators can continue to deliver necessary humanitarian aid to the population in need.

EU sanctions are one aspect of a complex landscape in Iran. There are many reasons beyond sanctions that may lead private sector operators, including suppliers and banks, to be hesitant to engage with Iran, including reputational risks or anti-money laundering considerations. The Commission engages in frequent dialogues with European businesses and the financial sector in particular to address overcompliance practices and to provide guidance on the content of EU sanctions.