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Answer given by Ms Albuquerque
on behalf of the European Commission
(18.2.2026)

The Commission deeply regrets the recourse to US sanctions that place undue pressure on the International Criminal Court (ICC) and those working for or cooperating with it. Furthermore, the threat of secondary sanctions directed at EU operators for engaging in certain activities with the targets of existing sanctions, regardless of any direct link to the sanctioning country, constitutes an extra-territorial application of sanctions that the Commission considers contrary to international law and opposes, including in UN fora.

In EU statements at UN level, notably when addressing false notions of ‘unilateral coercive measures’ put forward against EU autonomous restrictive measures, the EU systematically underlines that sanctions must comply with the UN Charter, international humanitarian law and due process. The EU consistently raises concerns when third country measures risk undermining the integrity of the multilateral system, the functioning of EU backed institutions or the protection of humanitarian and legitimate economic activities.

The Commission continues its close monitoring of developments related to the imposition of US sanctions affecting the ICC and those associated with its work. It remains in close contact with the ICC, the Member States and relevant stakeholders, and reiterates the importance of safeguarding the independence and functioning of the ICC.

The Commission continues to stand ready to provide its full support to safeguard the ICC against external pressure and to assess appropriate and effective measures to ensure that the ICC’s operations remain unaffected and that its mandate is fully upheld.