

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000080/26
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Loucas Furlas (PPE)
(12 January 2026)

Subject: Weakening of the European Union's position and the risks to the international order

Recent public interventions by top European leaders, including Germany's President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, point out that the international political scene is spiralling into a situation where rules are applied selectively and power tends to override the law, undermining the international order and the predictability of international relations. This criticism is especially significant when considering the role of the European Union itself.

The EU condemns outright any violation of international law by Russia and China. And yet, at the same time, it refers to the United States as a strategic ally, despite the fact that an EU Member State, such as Denmark, has been threatened or put under pressure, with references to the potential annexation of Greenland. This selective attitude reinforces the perception of double standards and weakens the EU's credibility as a defender of the rules.

The Vice-President/High Representative is asked:

1. How does she respond to growing concerns that the EU is applying double standards in its foreign policy?
2. What are the clear boundaries in the strategic relationship with the US when it comes to the territorial integrity of a Member State?
3. How is it ensured that the defence of international law remains non-negotiable, regardless of who violates it?

Submitted: 12.1.2026

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(6 March 2026)

The EU's foreign policy is firmly anchored in international law, including the UN Charter. National sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the inviolability of borders are non-negotiable principles, and should be applied consistently and universally. This approach is guided by the same rules-based order the EU upholds globally, whether in Europe or beyond.

Greenland is an autonomous territory in the Kingdom of Denmark. Decisions about the future of Greenland are for Greenlanders and Danes to decide.

They are essential not only for the EU, but for nations around the world and EU will keep defending them. Even more if the territorial integrity of a Member State is questioned.

The EU has shown impact and resolve through a strong and united European position in defending our values and interests, in support to Denmark and Greenland. Dialogue remains essential.

The establishment of the high-level working group between the United States, Greenland and Denmark was a positive move away from threats and towards the negotiating table.

Guided by the universal values and principles embedded in the UN Charter and international law, the EU remains the best defender of the rule of law throughout the world, including international law.

This is reflected in much of its actions at multilateral level, including in various UN fora, but also through specific public statements when these rules are violated. Furthermore, the primacy of international law is also raised in many high-level bilateral engagements and dialogues.
