

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000718/26
to the Commission**

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(19 February 2026)

Subject: The European Parliament's call to trigger the blocking statute to protect and safeguard the International Criminal Court

In its resolution of 9 July 2025 ⁽¹⁾, Parliament called on the Commission to activate the blocking statute to protect and safeguard the International Criminal Court (ICC) as an indispensable cornerstone of the international justice system. In its resolution of 11 September 2025 ⁽²⁾, Parliament repeated this call and added that European operators should be protected from the effects of US sanctions, and that the EU and its Member States should take any other diplomatic and practical steps necessary to defend the ICC and those cooperating with it, in line with the Member States' legally binding commitments to promote the universality and integrity of the Rome Statute.

1. Does the Commission concur with this Parliament position?
2. What is the reason why the blocking statute has not yet been triggered, considering Parliament's competence in respect of the interpretation and application of international law in so far as the EU is affected?
3. Does the Commission intend to add the ICC sanctions to the annex to Council Regulation (EC) No 2271/96 ⁽³⁾ and implement this addition, in line with Parliament's position?

Submitted: 19.2.2026

Answer given by Ms Albuquerque on behalf of the European Commission
(13 May 2026)

The Commission shares the concerns expressed by the European Parliament in its resolutions of 9 July and 11 September 2025. The Commission remains firmly committed to supporting the International Criminal Court (ICC) as a cornerstone of the international system of criminal justice and to safeguarding its independence and proper functioning. The Commission fully supports the ICC's work, including its investigations into war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The Commission is assessing all appropriate measures, including diplomatic, legal and financial avenues, that could help ensure the continuity of the ICC's operations and its ability to fulfil its mandate.

For each measure, the Commission, in close consultation with the High Representative/Vice-President and the Member States as well as with the ICC and relevant stakeholders, is carefully assessing its necessity, proportionality, effectiveness and relevant legal and practical implications.

While an amendment to the annex to Council Regulation (EC) No 2271/96 ⁽¹⁾ is among the legal measures assessed, at this stage, the Commission considers that diplomatic efforts and dialogue remain the most effective course of action.

¹ European Parliament resolution of 9 July 2025 on the human cost of Russia's war against Ukraine and the urgent need to end Russian aggression: the situation of illegally detained civilians and prisoners of war, and the continued bombing of civilians, https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-10-2025-0160_EN.html.

² European Parliament resolution of 11 September 2025 on Gaza at breaking point: EU action to combat famine, the urgent need to release hostages and move towards a two-state solution, https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-10-2025-0199_EN.html.

³ Council Regulation (EC) No 2271/96 of 22 November 1996 protecting against the effects of the extra-territorial application of legislation adopted by a third country, and actions based thereon or resulting therefrom, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/1996/2271/2018-08-07>.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 309, 29.11.1996, pp. 1-6.