

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001243/26  
to the Commission**

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(25 March 2026)

*Subject:* Defence of the UN rapporteurships, the mandate of Rapporteur Francesca Albanese and European citizens subject to sanctions by the Trump administration

Recent statements by members of the French, Czech and German governments against Francesca Albanese, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, highlight the campaign to discredit her after she denounced the genocide in Gaza and the systematic violation of human rights in the occupied territories.

These statements are in addition to the sanctions that the United States has imposed against Ms Albanese, members of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and other European citizens. These sanctions are a totally illegal and illegitimate civil conviction that affects European sovereignty.

1. What measures is the Commission taking to safeguard the independence and legitimacy of the UN rapporteurships, and how is the Commission putting this defence into practice in the case of Ms Albanese?
2. How is the Commission responding to the Trump administration's sanctions imposed against Ms Albanese, ICC members and European citizens for their professional or social activities?
3. What measures does the Commission plan to take to prevent interference in areas of EU competence affecting EU citizens at professional, economic and political level?

Supporter <sup>(1)</sup>

Submitted: 25.3.2026

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission**  
(5 June 2026)

The EU is a firm supporter of the UN human rights system and of the independence of the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC). The EU has a principled position of supporting the independence of special procedures mandate holders, who must be able to carry out their work effectively in an independent and impartial manner.

These mandate holders work on a voluntary basis, serve in their personal capacity and are independent from any government or organisation.

Special Rapporteurs and other special procedures mandate holders play an essential role in fighting impunity and ensuring accountability for serious human rights violations.

Mandate holders often operate under challenging circumstances and warrant recognition and respect when discharging their functions.

The EU has repeatedly called for an end to attacks and threats against mandate holders appointed by the UNHRC. This applies also to the current UN Special Rapporteur (UNSR) on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967.

The EU cooperates with UNHRC mechanisms and fully respects their mandates, including the mandate of the UNSR on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967. The EU engaged with the Special Rapporteur on several occasions on matters relevant to the rapporteurs' mandate.

The EU acknowledges the difficult situation that International Criminal Court (ICC) officials and those working for or with the Court, including UN special rapporteurs and/or civil society representatives, are currently facing.

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<sup>1</sup> This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Cecilia Strada (S&D).

The EU is in close dialogue with its Member States and the ICC and has engaged at key junctures with UN mechanisms and civil society, while continuing to monitor the implications of the US executive order.

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