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Answer given by Ms Albuquerque
on behalf of the European Commission
(30.10.2026)

The Commission firmly supports the International Criminal Court (ICC) and its essential role in upholding international criminal justice and is facilitating all appropriate measures that can help ensure the continuity of the ICC's operations and its ability to fulfil its mandate.

While an amendment to the Annex to Council Regulation (EC) No 2271/96[1] is among the measures available, the Commission considers, at this stage, that diplomatic efforts and dialogue remain the most effective course of action to ensure the continuity of the ICC's operations. The Commission will continue to monitor developments regarding the ICC closely, working with all 125 States that are parties to the Rome Statute to preserve and respect ICC's independence so that it can continue its vital mission.

The EU stands ready to take any necessary measures to enable the Court to carry out its work both in investigating and prosecuting war crimes and crimes against humanity, and to protect the interests of EU operators within the Single Market.

On the basis of the Payment Account Directive[2], ICC judges and officials residing in the EU have in any case the right to a payment account with basic features. In its recent judgment case C-81/24 (*Jenec)*[3], the European Court of Justice ruled that banks may not refuse the opening of a payment account with basic features based on the mere inclusion of a customer's name on a list of persons subject to restrictive measures imposed by a third country.

[1] OJ L 309, 29.11.1996, pp. 1–6 : http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/1996/2271/oj.
[2] Directive 2014/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 on the comparability of fees related to payment accounts, payment account switching and access to payment accounts with basic features, OJ L 257, 28.8.2014, pp. 214–246.
[3] Judgment of 11 June 2026, *LH* v *OTP banka d.d., anciennement NOVA KREDITNA BANKA MARIBOR*, C-81/24, EU:C:2026:470, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:62024CJ0081.