

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-002270/25
to the Commission
Alex Agius Saliba (S&D)
(5 June 2025)**

Subject: The effect of the sanctions imposed by the United States on the functioning of the ICC

On 15 May 2025, we read ⁽¹⁾ that staffers of the International Criminal Court (ICC) were no longer able to perform their duties due to the sanctions imposed by the Trump administration. According to this report, one effect of the sanctions imposed on the chief prosecutor, Karim Khan, is that he has lost access to his Microsoft email address.

Trump's executive order threatens any person, institution or company with fines and prison time if they provide Khan with 'financial, material, or technological support'. That is why we want to raise several questions in relation to the digital sabotage targeted at an international organisation based in the EU.

1. Has the Commission undertaken action concerning these sanctions against a representative acting in their official capacity, to protect the functioning of the international rule of law, at diplomatic level as well as with representatives of Microsoft?
2. What is the legal assessment of the actions undertaken by Microsoft to digitally undermine the ICC and its chief prosecutor and are there measures possible under the EU *acquis* to force Microsoft to resume their services?
3. How does the Commission assess the risks to other European and international entities, public and private, of falling victim to this example where a US company withdraws essential digital services if they go against the Trump administration?

Submitted: 5.6.2025

**Answer given by Ms Albuquerque on behalf of the European Commission
(3 July 2025)**

The International Criminal Court (ICC) is the cornerstone of international justice and the fight against impunity. It holds perpetrators of the world's gravest crimes to account and gives victims a voice.

The Commission is closely monitoring the developments related to the imposition of the United States' sanctions on the personnel of the ICC and continues to be in close contact with the ICC to monitor the impact of the sanctions on the Court's operations.

The Commission deeply regrets recourse to such actions and is ready to provide its full support, in coordination with Member States, to ensure the protection of the ICC and its personnel against external pressure or threats.

The Commission is considering effective measures, as appropriate, to ensure the ICC's operations remain unimpacted and its mandate fulfilled.

¹ <https://www.euronews.com/2025/05/15/trumps-sanctions-on-icc-halt-tribunals-work-staffers-claim>.