

President Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission

CC:

Vice-President Kaja Kallas
High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Commissioner Maria Luís Albuquerque
Commissioner for Financial Services and the Savings and Investments Union

Brussels, 13 October 2026

Subject: Protecting the ICC from the effects of US sanctions and safeguarding the EU's strategic autonomy

Dear President Von der Leyen,

Our fears have become reality. President Trump has decided to impose sanctions on the International Criminal Court as a whole.

The consequences of this decision will be devastating unless immediate action is taken to protect the ICC and ensure that it can continue to fulfil its mandate.

Even though there will be an OFAC-general license applicable for 180 days, we expect direct effects of the sanctions, meaning imminent danger for the ICC. There is a significant risk that EU financial institutions and other companies will over-comply directly and before the end of the 180 days, out of fear of US secondary sanctions.

We therefore formally call for the urgent deployment of all instruments at our disposal to protect the International Criminal Court from the consequences of these sanctions. We reiterate our call for the immediate activation of the EU Blocking Statute, with a minimum fall-back for the Statute to become applicable at the moment that the 180 day period ends, to draw a clear line towards the US administration.

Measures are needed to safeguard the Court and its constituent bodies, including, in particular, its access to the financial services and payment systems without which it cannot operate, and to shield all our economic operators from the effects of these sanctions. The Commission and Member States must urgently engage with EU financial institutions to ensure continuity of services to the ICC.

This decision by the Trump administration was foreseeable. Indeed, it was even expected. Over recent months, threats from the US administration had become increasingly insistent and explicit. Those threats have now been carried out. What is now at stake is the very survival of the ICC and, with it, the survival of international law in the face of the rule of might.

For months, we have been calling on the European Commission and the Member States to take all necessary measures to defend the ICC's judges and prosecutors, who are already subject to sanctions imposed by the Trump administration, including the activation of the EU Blocking Statute. Those calls have gone unheeded.

Faced with this direct assault on the rule of law and on justice, we cannot stand idle. The European Union must act swiftly and decisively. We are looking at an attack by a foreign power on an entity on EU territory, using our own financial system. The survival of the values the European Union upholds is at stake, as is Europe's autonomy and credibility in protecting its citizens and entities against foreign sanctions. This is about the survival of the Union itself.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,
MEP Aurore Lalucq
MEP Dirk Gotink

Co-signatures:

MEP	Angel	Marc	MEP	Mebarek	Nora
MEP	Asens	Jaume	MEP	Minchev	Nikola
MEP	Benifei	Brando	MEP	Nemec	Matjaz
MEP	Bischoff	Gabriele	MEP	Niedermayer	Ludek
MEP	Boeselager	Damian	MEP	Papandreou	Nikos
MEP	Boyer	Gilles	MEP	Pellerin-Carlin	Thomas
MEP	Bricmont	Saskia	MEP	Pietikäinen	Sirpa
MEP	Canfin	Pascal	MEP	Prebilic	Vladimir
MEP	Clergeau	Christophe	MEP	Rafowicz	Emma
MEP	Corrado	Annalisa	MEP	Regner	Evelyn
MEP	Di Rupo	Elio	MEP	Repasi	René
MEP	Doherty	Regina	MEP	Reuten	Thjis
MEP	Ecke	Matthias	MEP	Ridel	Chloé
MEP	Ferber	Markus	MEP	Riehl	Nela
MEP	Fernandez	Jonas	MEP	Sargiacomo	Eric
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MEP	Germain	Jean-Marc	MEP	Schieder	Andreas
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MEP	Goncalves	Bruno	MEP	Sovndal	Villy
MEP	Grossmann	Elisabeth	MEP	Strada	Cécilia
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MEP	Kalfon	François	MEP	Strolenberg	Anna
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