

“Beyond Rhetoric: Beyond Rhetoric: The EU’s Role in Upholding International Justice”

AGENDA

Event Details:

- **Date:** 6 March 2025
- **Time:** 11:40 - 12:30
- **Location:** Room SPAAK 7C50, European Parliament, Brussels
- **Hosted by :** Benedetta Scuderi, MEP
- **Co-Organisers:** EUmans / No Peace Without Justice

Background:

On 6 March 2025, the European Parliament will host the Congress of EUmans. Eumans is a pan-European movement focusing on promoting fundamental rights, sustainability, and democratic innovation through civic participation and transnational initiatives.

Within this framework, No Peace Without Justice has been invited to co-organise a focused segment on international law. The session will address mounting threats and attacks to the international justice system.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) faces significant external pressures, including sanctions, threats, discrediting campaigns, and other attacks by various States non-Parties to the ICC. Currently, the most serious challenge to the effective functioning of the ICC derives from the Executive Order recently issued by the United States to sanction the ICC and its officials.

Serious challenges also arise from ICC States Parties ambiguous statements about the validity of certain arrest warrants, selective cooperation, and outright non-compliance with judicial orders. For EU Member States, these actions violate legal obligations under Council Decision 2001/443/CFSP of 21 March 2011 and Council Conclusion 11082/23 of 26 June 2023.

Objectives:

This side event aims to foster a high-level discussion on the threats facing the ICC and the broader international justice system, and the EU’s responsibilities in upholding its legal commitments, defending the ICC, and reinforcing the rule of law. By engaging influential MEPs and civil society actors, the session seeks to:

- **Assess the impact of EU Blocking Statute (Council Regulation EC No 2271/96) as a mechanism to counteract non-EU sanctions**, engaging with the ICC Registrar on how to

enhance its effectiveness in this context, assuming it will have been activated by the date of the event. If, however, the Blocking Statute is not yet in force by the time of the event, this will serve as a platform to advocate for its immediate activation.

- **Expose existential threats to the ICC and international justice**, including sanctions and other attacks by non-states parties, selective support for investigations, non-compliance with ICC arrest warrants, and direct defiance of ICC rulings.
- **Clarify the EU's legal obligations**, particularly its duty to ensure that Member States adhere to ICC rulings. The discussion will explore legal consequences for non-compliance, including potential Article 7 TEU proceedings and CJEU referrals under Article 258 TFEU.
- **Advocate for a unified EU stance in support of the ICC**, ensuring that Member States do not weaken the Rome Statute through selective enforcement or political compromises.
- **Mobilise public engagement in ensuring that the EU and its Member States comply with their own values and legal obligations**. This event will encourage civic action to demand that the EU uphold its credibility and leadership in defending international justice. MEPs will be invited to reflect on ways to enhance the EU's internal accountability mechanisms and strengthen its support for the ICC in a manner consistent with its foundational principles.

Schedule:

- **11:40 - 11:45:** Introduction by Niccolò Figà-Talamanca – Secretary General, No Peace Without Justice
- **11:45 - 11:55:** Keynote Speech by Osvaldo Zavala Giler, Registrar of the ICC
- **11:55 - 12:20:** Discussion segment featuring MEPs and NGOs
 - Juan Fernando López Aguilar – MEP, S&D
 - Hanna Gedin - MEP, The Left
 - Alice Autin - Human Rights Watch
 - Frederika Schweighoferova - Parliamentarians for Global Action
- **12:20 - 12:30:** Q&A and concluding remarks

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