

**Question for written answer E-003966/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Francisco José Millán Mon (PPE), Gabriel Mato (PPE), Leopoldo López Gil (PPE)

Subject: Extension of the powers of the European Public Prosecutor's Office to include breaches of EU restrictive measures

Article 11 of the European Parliament resolution of 8 July 2021 on the EU global human rights sanctions regime (EU Magnitsky Act)¹ states the following:

'Is convinced that breaches of restrictive measures, and of asset freezes in particular, constitute an illegal activity affecting the Union's financial interests; calls for an assessment of the appropriateness of revising Directive (EU) 2017/1371 and Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 in order to task the European Public Prosecutor's Office with the responsibility of investigating, prosecuting and bringing to judgment the perpetrators of, and accomplices to, criminal offences in breach of restrictive measures adopted under the EU GHRSR'.

On 29 November 2022, the French and German Justice Ministers published a joint opinion piece in *Le Monde* calling for the powers of the European Public Prosecutor's Office to be extended to include breaches of restrictive measures adopted by the EU ('*Nous souhaitons l'extension de la compétence du parquet européen aux violations des sanctions prises par l'UE*', see attached).

What is the Commission's position on this proposal to give the European Public Prosecutor's Office the power to investigate, prosecute and bring to judgment the perpetrators of, and accomplices to, breaches of restrictive measures adopted by the EU?

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¹ 2021/2563(RSP)