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US denies rift with EU over Ukraine policy

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States (US) on Friday denied it was at odds with the European Union (EU) over how to end the crisis in Ukraine, despite a second leaked tape suggesting serious differences between the allies.

The EU has refused to be drawn over initial remarks by the top US envoy to Europe, Victoria Nuland, in which she apparently hurls an expletive at the European body during a private chat with the US ambassador to Kiev. But the woes were compounded when a second tape emerged Friday, this time apparently of a conversation between two EU officials angered by earlier US comments over their moves to resolve Ukraine's political upheaval.

Asked if she believed whether the two incidents revealed a deep rift between the US and EU, State Department spokesman Jen Psaki said: "We do not."

"We are working closely with them. Do you agree on every component of every step at every moment? Of course not. It's too complex of an issue," she told reporters.

<http://www.straitstimes.com/breaking-news/world/story/us-denies-rift-eu-over-ukraine-policy-2014020>