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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell i Fontelles
on behalf of the European Commission
(21.10.2024)

Since the beginning of Russia's full-scale aggression of Ukraine, the EU and its Member States have delivered unprecedented levels of military financial support for the Ukrainian armed forces, notably via the European Peace Facility (EPF).

1. For any assistance measures benefiting the Armed Forces of Ukraine through the EPF, the Government of Ukraine has committed to ensure compliance with the requirements and conditions established by the Council¹. Thereby, the Ukrainian authorities took the commitment neither to transfer the equipment received under the EPF to any third parties outside its own armed forces, nor to re-export it to other countries. They also committed to ensure safe and secure maintenance and management of weapons and ammunition delivered under the EPF. The European External Action Service is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of these commitments with the beneficiary and has carried out on-site inspections in Ukraine to verify the adequate storage, management and accounting of EPF-donated equipment. During the on-site checks, no irregularities or infringements of these commitments have been identified.

2. Jointly with Member States and Ukraine, the EU has implemented a list of actions to counter potential trafficking of firearms, other small arms and light weapons in the context of Russia's war of aggression since 2023. To date, there is no evidence that any EPF equipment donated to Ukraine has been diverted. In case of violations of the arrangements between the High Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) and the Government of Ukraine deriving from the Council Decision 2021/509, the EU's Political and Security Committee (PSC) may decide to suspend (wholly or partially) the implementation of an assistance measure. In urgent and exceptional cases, the HR/VP may provisionally suspend wholly or partially the implementation of an assistance measure, pending a decision by the PSC. The PSC may also recommend to the Council the termination of an assistance measure.

¹ Council Decision 2021/509 of 22 March 2021: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32021D0509>