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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell i Fontelles
on behalf of the European Commission
(25.10.2024)

The EU has made it clear that the allegations and criticism directed by Azerbaijan against the EU Mission in Armenia (EUMA) are not acceptable. It is an utmost priority that EU monitors can implement the mission's mandate in full safety and free from any form of intimidation or pressure, and EU has underlined this to all concerned parties.

The EU continues to engage with both Armenia and Azerbaijan, including with a view to supporting the normalisation of their relations and a long-lasting peace. The EU continues to address all relevant issues with Azerbaijan, including as part of the regular Human Rights Dialogue as well as in bilateral contacts. The EU has reacted publicly to the human rights situation in the country in recent months, and has called on Azerbaijan to release all those independent journalists, human rights defenders and political activists imprisoned for exercising their fundamental rights¹.

The EU continues to provide support² to displaced Karabakh Armenians (EUR 38.4 million in humanitarian aid and budget support). The EU calls upon Azerbaijan to ensure the rights of Karabakh Armenians, including their right to return to their homes without intimidation and discrimination. The EU Delegation in Baku is following the situation on the ground, including the situation of detainees, and is in close contact with the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Any decision on imposing sanctions is for the Council to make in unanimity.

¹ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/azerbaijan-statement-spokesperson-human-rights-situation_en

² https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/where/europe/armenia-and-azerbaijan_en