

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002272/24
to the Commission
Loucas Fourlas (PPE)
(28 October 2024)**

Subject: The British-driven Eurofighter project

Regarding the statements made by the German Chancellor, Olaf Scholz, concerning the negotiations the British Government is engaged in over for the sale of Eurofighter jets to Türkiye, can the Commission answer the following:

1. What is its take on the matter?
2. In what ways is it consulting with the British Government given that the matter concerns an aircraft project that involves EU Member States?
3. Is there alignment with Britain's optimistic approach and, if not, how is it being ensured that European military equipment is not going to be sold to a country that is openly threatening two EU Member States?

Submitted: 28.10.2024

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(22 January 2025)**

The control on the export of arms by Member States is subject, *inter alia* ⁽¹⁾, to the Council Common Position (CP) 2008/944/CFSP ⁽²⁾. Under its Article 2(5)(b), when assessing export licence applications, they shall take into account the risk of use of the items against their forces or those of other Member States, as well as those of friendly and allied countries.

This also includes the potential export of the Eurofighter, which is subject to the unanimous approval of state participants of the project.

The Commission has no mandate to influence Member States' decisions in individual cases regarding their arms export authorisation.

Member States continuously work in the Common Foreign and Security Policy framework to promote convergence in arms exports. The Council's Working Party on Conventional Arms Export remains seized of arms exports to Türkiye.

The EU stressed that Türkiye must respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all Member States. The EU also underlined its expectations from Türkiye to fully respect international law, to de-escalate tensions in the interest of regional stability in the Eastern Mediterranean, and to promote good neighbourly relations in a sustainable way ⁽³⁾.

The Council has taken good note of the recent improvements in relations between Türkiye and Greece in the expectation that they will be sustainable ⁽⁴⁾.

In its conclusions of 14 October 2019 ⁽⁵⁾, the Council recalled the decision taken by some Member States to halt arms exports to Türkiye. Member States committed to strong national positions on the basis of the CP, including strict application of criterion 4 (regional stability) as a basis for denying a licence, but did not impose an arms embargo.

There have been no subsequent proposals to further restrict arms exports to Türkiye.

⁽¹⁾ This includes also national legislation and the Arms Trade Treaty, https://thearmstradetreaty.org/hyper-images/file/ATT_English/ATT_English.pdf?templateId=137253

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32008E0944>

⁽³⁾ This was stressed by the European Council conclusions of June 2022, <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/06/24/european-council-conclusions-23-24-june-2022/>, p.7.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-16707-2023-INIT/en/pdf>

⁽⁵⁾ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-13090-2019-INIT/en/pdf>