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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné
on behalf of the European Commission
(12.5.2025)

EU-Türkiye trade relations are based on an Association Agreement from 1963¹ and a Customs Union agreement², which entered into force on 31 December 1995. Türkiye is an important trade partner to the EU, as well as a candidate country for EU membership. The EU has a strategic interest in the development of a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship with Türkiye, as reiterated by the European Council in April 2024³.

Türkiye is an important EU export market. In 2024, Türkiye was the EU's fifth biggest export market of goods by value of exports. Furthermore, even for some of sectors where the EU imports a lot from Türkiye such as motor vehicles and machinery, the EU has an overall trade balance or slight surpluses in value of exports⁴. Therefore, the engagement with Türkiye will continue in line with the framework of the existing agreements, alongside the Commission's broader efforts to diversify supply sources and mitigate dependencies.

At the same time the EU's approach to trade and economic security seeks to enhance resilience and reduce excessive dependencies in key sectors on third countries, as also highlighted in the Competitiveness Compass adopted by the Commission on 29 January 2025⁵. In follow-up to the Compass, the Commission presented on 26 February 2025 a Clean Industrial Deal⁶ to strengthen the competitiveness and decarbonisation of EU industry. In parallel, the Commission presented a simplification package⁷ to reduce burdens for businesses. In addition to these measures to improve the business environment in the EU, the Commission is intensifying its efforts to open foreign markets to EU companies, including through trade agreements and partnerships.

¹ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:f8e2f9f4-75c8-4f62-ae3f-b86ca5842eee.0008.02/DOC_2&format=PDF

² [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX:21996D0213\(01\)\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX:21996D0213(01)))

³ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/04/18/european-council-conclusions-on-ukraine-and-turkiye/>

⁴ https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/isdb_results/factsheets/country/details_turkiye_en.pdf

⁵ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/10017eb1-4722-4333-add2-e0ed18105a34_en

⁶ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/clean-industrial-deal_en

⁷ https://commission.europa.eu/news/commission-proposes-cut-red-tape-and-simplify-business-environment-2025-02-26_en