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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(26.6.2025)

The EU leadership has recurrently underlined that the EU has a strategic interest in a stable and secure environment in the Eastern Mediterranean and in the development of a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship with Türkiye¹.

Türkiye is a candidate country, a key partner in several areas of joint interest and a longstanding partner in the Common Security and Defence Policy. Nonetheless, accession negotiations with the country remain at a standstill since 2018, as Türkiye has not reversed the negative trend of continued deterioration of democratic standards noted in the past years². Respect of rule of law and progressive alignment with the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy are integral parts of the EU-Türkiye relationship.

The EU recognises the contribution of all non-EU Allies, including Türkiye, to the European and Transatlantic security. The EU is engaging with Türkiye on a phased, proportionate and reversible manner in line with the November 2023 recommendations of the Joint Communication on the state of play of the EU-Türkiye relations³ and the conclusions of the European Council of April 2024⁴.

The White Paper for European Defence Readiness 2030⁵ recalls that EU actions will take into consideration the security and defence interests of all Member States, while reaffirming the key role that like-minded partners can play to strengthen European security and defence.

The proposed Regulation on Security Action for Europe⁶ is under discussion in the Council and the conditions for cooperation with partners will be settled in this Regulation, once adopted, following a two-step approach: first, joining joint procurement activities; second, negotiating an agreement with the EU to allow its defence industry to supply Member States.

¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/m5jlwe0p/euco-conclusions-20240417-18-en.pdf>

² https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/7c67aed6-e7c2-47de-b3f8-b3edd26a3e26_en?filename=COM_2024_690_1_EN_ACT_part1_v11.pdf

³ <https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-11/Joint%20Communication%20to%20the%20European%20Council%20-%20State%20of%20play%20of%20EU-Turkiye%20political%20and%20trade%20relations.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/m5jlwe0p/euco-conclusions-20240417-18-en.pdf>

⁵ https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-defence-industry/introducing-white-paper-european-defence-and-rearm-europe-plan-readiness-2030_en

⁶ https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/document/download/6d6f889c-e58d-4caa-8f3b-8b93154fe206_en?filename=SAFE%20Regulation.pdf