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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(5.8.2025)

Human rights and the rule of law in Azerbaijan remain a priority for the EU and are at the core of the EU-Azerbaijan bilateral relations. The EU has repeatedly voiced concerns regarding the arrests of independent journalists, human rights defenders, and political activists¹. During her visit to Azerbaijan on 25 April 2025, the High Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) discussed EU-Azerbaijan relations, regional cooperation, and the normalisation process between Azerbaijan and Armenia. The HR/VP emphasised the importance of mutual respect, rule of law, and human rights in their bilateral relationship, and reiterated the EU's strong support for the normalisation process and lasting peace in the region².

The HR/VP visited Armenia on 29-30 June 2025. She met with the President, the Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister, civil society organisations, youth representatives and visited the EU Mission in Armenia. The HR/VP passed the clear message that the EU and Armenia have never been as close as they are now. During her visit, the HR/VP and the Foreign Minister signed an agreement establishing a framework for Armenia's participation in EU crisis management missions and operations³. She also announced a political agreement on the text of the new EU-Armenia partnership agenda, which is underpinned by the Resilience and Growth Plan for Armenia, launched the EU-Armenia security and defence consultations, and announced substantial new assistance for independent media in Armenia⁴.

¹ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/azerbaijan-statement-spokesperson-human-rights-situation_en;
https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/CRE-10-2024-10-22-ITM-020_EN.html;
https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/CRE-10-2024-12-18-ITM-019-03_EN.html.

² https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/media-advisory-high-representative-kaja-kallas-travels-azerbaijan_en.

³ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/armenia-remarks-high-representativevice-president-kaja-kallas-joint-press-conference_en.

⁴ See footnote 3.