

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001678/25**  
**to the Commission**  
**Emmanouil Kefalogiannis (PPE)**  
(25 April 2025)

*Subject:* Choosing economic cooperation with Türkiye without clear political conditions goes against European values

Choosing economic cooperation with Türkiye without clear political conditions goes against European values, putting the credibility of the Union at risk.

The ‘High-Level Economic Dialogue’ between the EU and Türkiye, held under the auspices of the Commission with the participation of the Turkish Minister of Finance, raises questions about the EU’s consistency. The dialogue, the first since 2019, is taking place at a time when Türkiye is stepping up attacks on press freedom and the persecution of mayors and others.

The EU-Türkiye Joint Parliamentary Committee has decided to postpone the meeting in Ankara and, despite the correct decision of the Commissioner for Enlargement to cancel her participation in the diplomatic forum in Antalya and her participation in the Parliamentary Committee, the EU — by way of its decision to co-organise the economic dialogue — is raising questions about the consistency of its approach towards Türkiye. The EU must ensure that economic relations with Türkiye do not undermine its unwavering commitment to democratic principles and the rule of law.

The Commission is therefore asked:

1. What criteria were taken into account for the resumption of the economic dialogue?
2. How is it ensured that the resumption of EU-Türkiye economic relations is not perceived by Türkiye as a reward for its authoritarian policies?

Submitted: 25.4.2025

**Answer given by Ms Kos on behalf of the European Commission**  
(27 June 2025)

The High-Level Economic Dialogue (HLED) was suspended in 2019 <sup>(1)</sup> in response to the unauthorised drilling activities by Türkiye in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Since then, there has been continuous de-escalation in the Eastern Mediterranean, as well as improvement in the relations between Türkiye and Greece.

In line with the European Council conclusions of April 2024 <sup>(2)</sup> and the decision by the Council in December 2024 <sup>(3)</sup>, the HLED with Türkiye was reinstated accordingly.

During the HLED on 3 April 2025, the Commission made it clear that EU-Türkiye relations should be guided by values, such as the respect of the rule of law, democracy, media freedom and human rights, which also play a key role in sustaining economic confidence and facilitating the business environment <sup>(4)</sup>.

The Commission passed a very firm message that the recent negative developments in the area of the rule of law and the respect of fundamental rights in Türkiye may negatively affect the implementation of the Joint Communication from November 2023 <sup>(5)</sup> and the ‘positive agenda’ with Türkiye. Since then, the Commission has taken further steps to strengthen this message.

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<sup>(1)</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/41183/st11260-en19.pdf>.

<sup>(2)</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/m5jlwe0p/euco-conclusions-20240417-18-en.pdf>.

<sup>(3)</sup> <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-16983-2024-INIT/en/pdf>.

<sup>(4)</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement\\_25\\_969](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_25_969).

<sup>(5)</sup> <https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-11/Joint%20Communication%20to%20the%20European%20Council%20-%20State%20of%20play%20of%20EU-Turkiye%20political%20and%20economic%20and%20trade%20relations.pdf>.