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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(1.7.2025)

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.

In this context, the EU has been following the case of Mr Tofiq Yagublu closely and was vocal about his detention and health condition on various occasions². Mr Yagublu, as well as all other detainees, have the right to due process, a fair trial and access to proper health care. All persons detained for exercising their fundamental rights should be released. The EU continues to raise these issues with the authorities at all levels, including during the recent visit to Baku of the High Representative/Vice President on 25 April 2025.

Protection of human rights and respect for civil society are integral parts of the EU-Azerbaijan Partnership and Cooperation Agreement³. The negotiations for a new agreement will continue to be based on Azerbaijan's multilateral and bilateral commitments. The EU remains committed to continuing the dialogue and cooperation on human rights and the rule of law with Azerbaijan.

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://x.com/anouareuspo/status/1920563856499245180?s=46&t=iHq8dMv1wG10ZFDHNp0C3>;
https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/azerbaijan-statement-spokesperson-detention-journalists-and-political-activists_en;
https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/azerbaijan-statement-spokesperson-detention-human-rights-defenders-and-political-activists_en;
https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/azerbaijan-statement-spokesperson-sentencing-tofiq-yagublu_en.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A21999A0917%2801%29>.