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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(1.8.2025)

Besides implementing all sanctions adopted by the United Nations, the EU also adopts autonomous sanctions to counter terrorism, defend human rights and democratic institutions, or prevent the proliferation of chemical weapons or weapons of mass destruction. Decisions on sanctions are taken unanimously by Member States in the European Council.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) is listed under the EU's Iran sanctions regime in relation to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In addition, several dozen IRGC officials, and IRGC-related individuals and entities, are listed under further EU sanctions regimes¹. Cooperation between the Azerbaijani Armed Forces and the IRGC depends on the bilateral relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Iran. While the EU encourages partner countries to align with EU sanctions policy, the EU does not apply so-called secondary sanctions.

The relationship between the EU and Azerbaijan remains based on the EU-Azerbaijan Partnership and Cooperation Agreement². The EU is committed to developing this relationship, based on respect for fundamental principles, including the rule of law and human rights. The EU continues to pursue an open dialogue with Azerbaijan to address all issues, including related to the regional situation.

¹ <https://www.sanctionsmap.eu/#/main>.

² https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/agree_international/1999/614/oj/eng.