

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003022/25
to the Commission
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)
(21 July 2025)**

Subject: Time for the full cessation of any EU-Turkish defence cooperation

Any discussion about Türkiye's participation in European defence is ironic.

Türkiye has repeatedly violated the second and third pillar provisions on stability and human rights of Common Position 2008/944/CFSP on European arms exports. The country has carried out military attacks in Syria and Iraq without an international mandate, with the support of non-state armed groups and using European weapons in acts of internal repression: (a) against unarmed Kurds, with technical know-how and weapons from Iveco (Italy), Mercedes-Benz, Rheinmetall, MAN, Heckler, Koch G3, HK33 (Germany), Renault Trucks Defense, Alsetex (France), Chemring (England); (b) repression of protests in Gezi (2013), where Turkish security forces used excessive force, tear gas, rubber bullets and water cannons (TOMA), manufactured by Turkish companies (such as Katmerciler) with components and technology imported from European countries, mainly Germany (water pumps, engines), while tear gas and repressive equipment had been imported from companies in Germany, Britain and France; (c) in the wake of the coup (July 2016), with excessive force and human rights violations in operations using German vehicles (MAN, Mercedes-Benz); (d) repression of social protests (2015-2023); (e) the documented use of tear gas and rubber bullets of European origin (Human Rights Watch). The continuing aggression against Greece and Cyprus directly violates the requirement of the Common Position not to threaten regional peace and security.

Does the Commission intend to propose a total ban on the export of equipment/technological know-how to Türkiye/Turkish businesses, or does it prefer to discredit itself?

Submitted: 21.7.2025

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(1 September 2025)**

The EU has reacted accordingly to developments referred to in the Honourable Member's question. In its conclusions of 14 October 2019 ⁽¹⁾, the Council recalled the decision taken by some Member States to halt arms exports to Türkiye.

Member States committed to strong national positions on the basis of the Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP ⁽²⁾, including strict application of criterion 4 (regional stability) as a basis for denying a licence.

The EU has stressed that Türkiye must respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all Member States. The EU has underlined its expectations from Türkiye to fully respect international law, to de-escalate tensions in the interest of regional stability in the Eastern Mediterranean, and to promote good neighbourly relations in a sustainable way ⁽³⁾.

The Council has also taken good note of the recent improvements in relations between Türkiye and Greece in the expectation that they will be sustainable ⁽⁴⁾.

National assessment of the Common Position criteria on a case-by-case basis has in some instances resulted in a denial or suspension of exports to Türkiye, as shown in the public online database operated by the European External Action Service ⁽⁵⁾ which reflects annual EU reports on arms export.

Member States continuously work in the Common Foreign and Security Policy framework to promote convergence in arms exports. The Council's Working Party on Conventional Arms Export remains seized of arms exports to Türkiye.

⁽¹⁾ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-13090-2019-INIT/en/pdf>.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32008E0944>.

⁽³⁾ This was stressed by the European Council conclusions of June 2022, <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/06/24/european-council-conclusions-23-24-june-2022/>, p.7.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-16707-2023-INIT/en/pdf>.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/eeasqap/sense/app/75fd8e6e-68ac-42dd-a078-f616633118bb/sheet/74299ecd-7a90-4b89-a509-92c9b96b86ba/state/analysis>.