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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(25.9.2025)

The EU has repeatedly expressed, most recently in the Council conclusions on Enlargement of 17 December 2024¹, its expectation that Türkiye unequivocally commits to good neighbourly relations, international agreements and the peaceful settlement of disputes including through the International Court of Justice. Türkiye must avoid threats and actions that damage good neighbourly relations and respect the sovereignty and sovereign rights of all Member States, in accordance with international law, including customary international law and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

This is essential to ensure a stable and secure environment in the Eastern Mediterranean and the development of a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship between the EU and Türkiye, which represents an EU strategic interest. The EU remains committed to defend its interests and those of its Member States as well as to uphold regional stability.

Member States are solely responsible for applying the eight criteria of the Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP². Member States committed to strong national positions under the Common Position, including strict application of criteria four and five as a basis for denying a licence. National assessment on a case-by-case basis has resulted in some instances in a denial or suspension of exports to Türkiye, as shown in the public online database operated by the European External Action Service³, 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-16983-2024-INIT/en/pdf>.

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

³ <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/eeasqap/sense/app/75fd8e6e-68ac-42dd-a078-f616633118bb/sheet/74299ecd-7a90-4b89-a509-92c9b96b86ba/state/analysis>.