

EN
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Answer given by Mr Kadis
on behalf of the European Commission
(29.10.2025)

The Commission is committed to good-neighbourly relations, expecting the avoidance of unilateral acts contrary to EU interests, international law and Member States' sovereign rights.

The Commission implements Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008¹ as and when applicable. Identifying a non-EU country as non-cooperating in the fight against illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing rests on examining the information foreseen in the Regulation in relation to that country's international obligations (Article 31 et seq.). The information received by Member States does not substantiate the fulfilment of the relevant conditions to identify Türkiye as a non-cooperating country. Sightings trigger examinations by the Commission but become documented IUU cases only when complemented by Member State investigations.

The Regulation applies without prejudice to provisions adopted by regional fisheries management organisations (RFMO) (Article 48.6). The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) and the International Commission on Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) are the relevant RFMOs which established a comprehensive framework to fight against IUU fishing and improve compliance with the established rules.

Imports of fisheries products into the EU, including from Türkiye, are controlled by Member States under the EU catch certification scheme (Article 17 et seq.), to prevent products from IUU fishing from entering the EU market. This system will become fully digital on 10 January 2026 through IT CATCH, further harmonising import controls. The Commission works closely with the Member States to ensure the traceability of fishery products. Operational decisions and enforcement powers on imports remain with national authorities.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2008/1005/oj/eng>.