

EN
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Answer given by Mr Kubilius
on behalf of the European Commission
(14.1.2026)

The control of export of military equipment and technology is exercised by the Member States and subject to national legislations, the Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP¹, and international instruments such as the Arms Trade Treaty² and the Wassenaar Arrangement. The export outside the EU of equipment and technology listed on the EU Common Military List³ requires an export license by the relevant Member State. Licence applications for such equipment must comply with the criteria of the Council Common Position and international obligations and commitments of the licensing Member State. The national authorities of the exporting Member State are responsible for such assessment.

As announced in the State of the Union address by the President of the Commission⁴, the Commission presented a proposal to the Council to suspend certain trade-related provisions of the Association Agreement between the EU and Israel⁵ that fall within the EU's common commercial policy. If adopted, this would mean that imports from Israel would lose their preferential access to the EU market and exports from the EU would lose their preferential access to the Israeli market.

The Council, through its relevant working groups, works towards increased convergence between Member States' arms export policies. Specifically, the impact of the conflict in Gaza on national arms exports policies of Member States is continuously on the agenda of meetings.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02008E0944-20250415>.

² <https://thearmstradetreaty.org/treaty-text.html?templateId=209884>.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/C/2025/1499/oj/eng>.

⁴ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/state-union/state-union-2025_en.

⁵ [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:22000A0621\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:22000A0621(01)).