

EN
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Answer given by Ms Kos
on behalf of the European Commission
(3.9.2026)

The European Commission is aware of the denial of entry to the *Scarlet Lady* in Kuşadası. It has underlined on numerous occasions, including in its last enlargement report on Türkiye¹, that the protection of fundamental rights of LGBTIQ+ people in Türkiye remains a major concern.

The Commission regularly raises human rights issues with the Turkish authorities. This includes concerns related to the protection of LGBTIQ+ people's rights. The Commissioner for Enlargement has met members of the LGBTIQ+ community during her recent visits to Türkiye to discuss the situation. As an EU candidate country and member of the Council of Europe, Türkiye is expected to uphold the highest democratic standards and to ensure the respect of fundamental rights for all, including visitors, without discrimination, including on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. These issues are taken into account in the assessment of the country's alignment with EU values and standards.

The Commission will continue to support civil society and human rights defenders through its financial assistance in Türkiye, including organisations that promote and defend the rights of LGBTIQ+ people. The Commission will also continue to raise these issues in all relevant contacts with the Turkish authorities, including in the context of the sub-committee covering this area, established under the Association Agreement with Türkiye².

¹ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/turkiye-report-2025_en.

² https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:f8e2f9f4-75c8-4f62-ae3f-b86ca5842eee.0004.02/DOC_2&format=PDF.