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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné
on behalf of the European Commission
(23.10.2026)

Türkiye is an important trade partner and ranks as the EU's fifth biggest export market for goods by value of exports. In some key sectors (e.g. motor vehicles, machinery), the EU has a positive trade balance with Türkiye. EU-Türkiye trade relations are based on an Association Agreement from 1963¹ and a Customs Union agreement², which entered into force in 1995. Türkiye is also a candidate country for EU membership. The EU has a strategic interest in maintaining a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship with Türkiye, as reiterated by the European Council in April 2024³.

Therefore, the EU's engagement with Türkiye will continue in line with the framework of the existing agreements, alongside the Commission's broader efforts to diversify its supply sources. The Commission is acutely aware of the need to enhance the EU's economic resilience and open strategic autonomy. In addition to measures aiming to improve the business environment in the EU, which aim to stimulate home-grown industries, the Commission is actively monitoring the EU's trade partnerships to reduce excessive dependencies on third countries.

While there are no measures in place for individual Member States to request the Commission to take specific actions, under Article 241 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), the Council (acting by simple majority) can formally request the Commission to undertake studies and submit appropriate proposals.

¹ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:f8e2f9f4-75c8-4f62-ae3f-b86ca5842eee.0008.02/DOC_2&format=PDF.

² [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX:21996D0213\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX:21996D0213(01)).

³ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/04/18/european-council-conclusions-on-ukraine-and-turkiye/>.