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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(28.10.2025)

The Commission is ready to facilitate a consultation with Member States to obtain additional information on the question raised by the Honourable Member. This consultation should aim at obtaining more information on the extent of the export of used fishing nets for the sake of drone protection in Ukraine, as well as on whether and how Member States consider the export of these nets as an export of waste under the EU legislation on waste and waste shipment¹. As indicated by the Honourable Member, the rules on export are different if these nets are considered as waste, or not, and the Commission is willing to work with Member States towards a common, harmonised interpretation of this issue at the EU level.

While coordinating and facilitating defence donations for Ukraine fall under the national responsibility of Member States, the Commission could explore to possibly support projects aimed at repurposing civilian products into military counter products subject to Ukraine confirming the operational value of a respective project. The EU supports its circular economy transition through dedicated programmes. These include Horizon Europe², the flagship framework programme for research and innovation, the EU programme for the environment and climate action³, and Cohesion policy funds⁴, including the European Regional Development Fund⁵ and the Cohesion Fund⁶, which are managed together with national and regional authorities. These programmes can fund projects focused on sustainable design, waste prevention, resource efficiency, reuse and recycling.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2024/1157 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 on shipments of waste, amending Regulations (EU) No 1257/2013 and (EU) 2020/1056 and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006, OJ L, 2024/1157, 30.4.2024.

² https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/horizon-europe_en.

³ https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life_en.

⁴ https://commission.europa.eu/eu-regional-and-urban-development/financial-support-projects/structural-and-investment-funds_en.

⁵ https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/european-regional-development-fund-erdf_en.

⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funding/cohesion-fund_en.