

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-000386/26
to the Commission
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)
(29 January 2026)**

Subject: Application of Article 9 of Directive (EU) 2015/849 to Türkiye

In 2021, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) placed Türkiye on a list of countries under increased monitoring due to strategic deficiencies in its anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) regime. The country was taken off the list on 28 June 2024, following the formal adoption of legislative initiatives and without sufficient proof of substantive implementation. Currently, Türkiye remains off the EU list of high-risk third countries referred to in Article 9 of Directive (EU) 2015/849.

Over the last year, official international and European sources continue to record heightened risks: the EU country report on Türkiye (2024) states that the country remains an important drug transit hub between Asia and Europe. According to the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA, formerly the EMCDDA), around 22.2 tonnes of heroin were seized in Türkiye in 2021, compared to 9.5 tonnes in the EU as a whole. In 2022, seizures in Türkiye remained at an extremely high level (approximately 8 tonnes), indicating a structural and systemic role in international trafficking flows and not just increased law enforcement.

The Tax Justice Network's 2025 Financial Secrecy Index shows a medium to high degree of financial secrecy. In view of the next FATF plenary meetings, Türkiye remains subject to a compliance follow-up process.

The Commission is asked:

1. How does it assess the cumulative risk to the financial system and internal security of the Union, in accordance with the requirements of Article 9 of Directive (EU) 2015/849?
2. Does it intend to review Türkiye's non-inclusion on the EU list in 2026, in the light of the FATF's findings?

Submitted: 29.1.2026

**Answer given by Ms Albuquerque on behalf of the European Commission
(11 March 2026)**

The Commission takes a comprehensive approach to protect the EU's financial system. The fourth Anti-Money Laundering Directive ⁽¹⁾ mandates the Commission to identify third countries posing a significant threat. The anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) package adopted in 2024 ⁽²⁾ further strengthens these efforts.

Türkiye's removal from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) list of jurisdictions under increased monitoring in June 2024 followed a rigorous process, including verification of both legislative reforms and their effective implementation, on an on-site visit to the country.

While FATF removed Türkiye from its 'grey list', the Commission agrees that close monitoring of the effectiveness of Türkiye's AML/CFT framework remains essential. Türkiye will continue to be monitored on this basis, including in light of future findings.

As a candidate country, Türkiye remains subject to regular and structured assessments by the Commission, including through the annual enlargement country report, the latest one being issued in November 2025 ⁽³⁾.

While accession negotiations with Türkiye have remained at a standstill since 2018, the Commission continues to closely assess developments relevant to the protection of the EU's financial system.

Against this background, and as part of its overall risk-assessment framework, the Commission keeps its list of high-risk third countries under regular review.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2015/849/oj/eng>.

⁽²⁾ https://finance.ec.europa.eu/news/latest-update-anti-money-laundering-and-countering-financing-terrorism-legislative-package-2024-04-24_en.

⁽³⁾ SWD(2025) 756 final.