

EN
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Answer given by Ms Kos
on behalf of the European Commission
(29.10.2026)

The Commission immediately reacted to the recent arrests and legal proceedings initiated against LGBTIQ+ persons and organisations in Türkiye and continues to closely monitor developments, including through the EU Delegation in Ankara. In a statement in the European Parliament plenary on 14 September 2026, the Commission recalled that Türkiye, as an EU candidate country, is expected to uphold the highest democratic standards and ensure the respect of fundamental rights for all individuals, without discrimination, including on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. Stigmatisation and discrimination are contrary to the EU values. In the European External Action Service Spokesperson's statement of 18 September 2026¹, the EU called on the Turkish authorities to ensure respect for procedural safeguards, release those arbitrarily detained, drop unfounded charges, and put an end to intimidation against civil society, LGBTIQ+ persons, organisations, and human rights defenders. Those concerns were also raised during meetings with the Turkish authorities.

The EU remains committed to prioritising human rights across all its external relations and will continue to support civil society and human rights defenders in Türkiye, including organisations that promote and defend the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons.

All applications for international protection must be assessed individually, objectively and on their own merits, with full respect for EU asylum law, including the right to an effective remedy. In the application of the concept of safe country of origin, the applicant can provide elements justifying why the concept of safe country of origin is not applicable to him or her, in the framework of an individual assessment.

¹ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/turkiye-statement-spokesperson-arrests-and-legal-proceedings-against-lgbtqi-activists_en.