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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell i Fontelles
on behalf of the European Commission
(18.11.2022)

In June 2022, the European Council expressed deep concern about recent repeated actions and statements by Turkish officials and underlined that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all EU Member States must be respected. Recalling its previous conclusions¹ and the statement of 25 March 2021², the European Council made its expectations clear for Türkiye to fully respect international law, to de-escalate tensions in the interest of regional stability in the Eastern Mediterranean, and to promote good neighbourly relations in a sustainable way³.

The EU will continue to urge Türkiye to stop all threats and actions that damage good neighbourly relations and to respect the sovereignty of all EU Member States over their territorial sea and airspace.

The control on the export and transit of arms by EU Member States is subject to national legislation, the Council Common Position (CP) 2008/944/CFSP defining common rules governing control of exports of military technology and equipment, and the Arms Trade Treaty. The final decision to authorise export or transit is taken by the authorities of EU Member States, based on criteria of the Common Position.

In the Council Conclusions from 14 October 2019⁴, the EU recalled the decision taken by some Member States to immediately halt arms exports licensing to Türkiye, and Member States committed to strong national positions on the basis of CP 2008/944/CFSP, including the strict application of its criteria 4 on regional stability as potential basis for denial of export license, but did not impose arms embargo. The Working Party on Conventional Arms Export (COARM) remains seized of the matter of arms exports to Türkiye. Several Member States have decided not to issue new export licenses for arms exports to Türkiye. Information on arms exports from EU Member States is publicly available on the website of the European External Action Service⁵.

¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/50763/2425-06-21-euco-conclusions-en.pdf>

² <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/48976/250321-vtc-euco-statement-en.pdf>

³ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/57442/2022-06-2324-euco-conclusions-en.pdf>

⁴ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-13090-2019-INIT/en/pdf>

⁵ <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/eeasqap/sense/app/75fd8e6e-68ac-42dd-a078-f616633118bb/sheet/74299ecd-7a90-4b89-a509-92c9b96b86ba/state/analysis>