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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell i Fontelles
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.12.2022)

Given the new geopolitical reality following Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, alignment with the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) is of paramount importance. This is particularly relevant for issues where major common interests are at stake, such as restrictive measures at this critical geopolitical junction.

All candidate countries, including Türkiye, are expected to align with the EU High Representative statements on behalf of the EU and Council Decisions on restrictive measures. The EU has repeatedly stressed this strong expectation in contacts with Turkish interlocutors and reported on the decreasing alignment trend of the country in the October 2022 Commission report¹. Türkiye's continued policy of not aligning with restrictive measures against Russia is of increasing concern due to the free circulation of products, including dual use goods, within the EU-Turkey Customs Union.

It is also essential that Türkiye, especially as a candidate country, does not offer circumventing solutions to Russia.

The deepening of bilateral economic ties between Türkiye and Russia amid Russia's unacceptable war of aggression against Ukraine is also of great concern.

The EU will continue to monitor the situation and continue raising these concerns with Turkish officials at all levels.

¹ SWD(2022) 333 final.