



THE EU AND TÜRKIYE

#StrongerTogether
#EUEnlargement

October 2024



Türkiye is an **EU candidate country** since 1999.



EU support for Türkiye

The **EU** is the **largest provider of financial assistance** to Türkiye. It offers a variety of programmes and instruments to support Türkiye's development and EU accession process.

Refugee support and border management

Since 2011, the EU provided close to €10 billion to assist refugees and host communities in Türkiye. The EU provided support for basic needs to over 1.9 million refugees, education services to close to 820 000 refugee children, and primary health care consultations in 33.4 million cases. Moreover it provided equipment, technical assistance and training for border protection.



The EU is Türkiye's

✓ largest trade partner

✓ largest investor

✓ largest provider of financial assistance

Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA)

In **2021-2023** the EU has allocated **€751 million** of financial and technical assistance to Türkiye under IPA III. This includes:

- **€215 million** for **smart urban mobility** services through the SUMART programme.
- **€206 million** for the new public and private investments under the **European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+)**.
- **€115.6 million** for reconstruction after the earthquake of February 2023.
- **€105 million** for rural development and agri-food industry
- **€9 million** for organic agriculture and fisheries.



The Türkiye Investment Platform (TIP)

The **Türkiye Investment Platform**, established in 2022 by the EU, is the main vehicle to channel EU investments in Türkiye. The Platform supports investment proposals by EU financial institutions in the areas of decarbonisation, digitalisation, access to finance, innovation, and green investments, through a wide range of budgetary guarantee mechanisms for public and private investments. It aims to generate investments to the value of **€2.4 billion by the end of 2027** in Türkiye, in cooperation with international financial institutions. This includes:

- Financing and Accelerating the Sustainable Transition of Cities ("**FAST-Cities**").
- **Rehabilitating, constructing and extending drinking water**, sewerage and stormwater networks as well as drinking water, wastewater treatment plants, for the provinces affected by the earthquakes in February 2023.
- The **Connectivity programme**, promoting investments into low-emission energy supply projects, sustainable transport networks, digital connectivity and digitalisation projects, sustainable supply chains, and human development projects.

What we are achieving together



23 770 micro, small and medium-sized businesses with improved access to financial services and financing



More than **150 000 jobs** supported or sustained



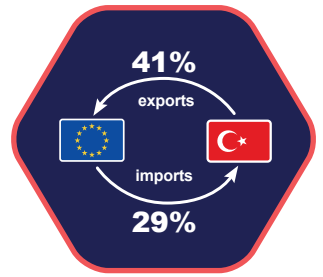
Greenhouse gas emissions reduced every year by more than **311 000 tonnes of CO2**



Close trade & investment links

The **EU is Türkiye's main trading partner**, while Türkiye is EU's fifth largest trading partner. In 2023, 41% of Türkiye's exported goods were destined for the EU, while 29% of the country's imported goods originated from the EU. Total EU Foreign Direct Investment reached €4.98 billion in 2022*. Overall trade volume reached a record high of almost €206 billion in 2023.

The **Customs Union Decision** of 1996 established the liberalised trade regime between the EU and Türkiye (removal of tariffs and quantitative restrictions) while also establishing a requirement for alignment with the EU's customs tariffs and rules, commercial policy, competition policy, intellectual property rights, and technical legislation.



Foreign & security policy cooperation

Türkiye is an active and significant player in the area of foreign policy, which constitutes a pivotal aspect of EU-Türkiye relations. Türkiye has some level of preparation in the area of the **EU Common Foreign Security and Defence Policy (CFSP)**, and made no progress overall in the reporting period. Türkiye's very low alignment rate has further decreased and its foreign policy remains at odds with the EU priorities under the CFSP in certain issues.

- Türkiye has embarked on a comprehensive vision in the diplomatic, economic, security and defense spheres, diversifying **partnerships** and asserting its **strategic autonomy**.
- Türkiye intensified its relations with countries in **Africa, Asia, the Gulf and Latin America**, while increasing its regional normalisation efforts with the **Arab states and Armenia**. On combating the circumvention of the EU's sanctions against Russia, Türkiye has implemented specific measures and should continue to cooperate actively with the EU.
- Under the **EU Common Foreign Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)**, Türkiye continued to actively participate and substantially contribute to EU crisis management missions and operations.



People to people contacts

- Thanks to the EU **ERASMUS+ programme**, in the past three years over 189 494 Turkish citizens have participated in exchange programmes in the areas of education, youth and sport.



* Source: DG Trade

© Murat Baykara