



Written by [D. Michael DeRidder](#) on January 23, 2024

Turkey Approves NATO Membership for Sweden

NATO member [Turkey endorsed membership for Sweden](#) after delaying approval for 20 months. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's party holds a majority in Turkey's general assembly, which voted 287-55 to ratify Sweden's NATO membership today. Erdoğan is known for taking an independent stance for Turkey and [balancing diplomatic ties with the West and Russia](#). Receiving U.S. F-16 fighter jets was a prerequisite for Turkey approving NATO membership for Sweden.



AP Images

Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson responded to Turkey's support, [saying on X](#), "Today we are one step closer to becoming a full member of NATO. Positive that the Grand General Assembly of Türkiye has voted in favour of Sweden's NATO accession."

Now with Turkey supporting Sweden's NATO membership, [Hungary is the only member state that has not approved](#) Sweden joining the bloc. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán announced today that he invited Kristersson to visit and negotiate Hungary's support for joining NATO.

Orbán announced his invitation to Kristersson, [saying on X](#), "Today I sent an invitation letter to Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson @SwedishPM for a visit to Hungary to negotiate on Sweden's NATO accession."



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