

There is still a way to solve S-400 tension in Turkish-U.S.

Tiny Url

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Turkey and U.S. are only one inch away from a point of no return, but the two countries still have one option in solving the crisis over Turkey's plans to buy Russian S-400 missile systems, said veteran Turkish journalist Murat Yetkin on Saturday.

As the delivery date of S-400 systems to Turkey scheduled for July nears, Washington has stepped up efforts to persuade Turkey to cancel or postpone the deal.

CNBC [reported](#) on Tuesday that Washington gave Turkey until the end of the first week in June to either cancel its acquisition of Russia's S-400 missile system and buy U.S.-made Patriots or risk expulsion from the F-35 program, U.S. sanctions and possible blowback from NATO.

If Turkey goes ahead with plans to acquire Russian systems, the United States will probably impose sanctions on Turkey and freeze the delivery of the F-35 stealth jets, Yetkin [said](#) in Deutsche Welle Turkish.

Turkey, in response, will probably place limitations to U.S. military activity in Turkey, including Incirlik airbase in the southern province of Adana and an early warning radar system deployed in the eastern Anatolian province of Malatya, according to Yetkin.

If this becomes a reality, it will not only have devastating effects on Turkey's already ailing economy, Yetkin said, but will also create problems in country's military supply plans.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan seems to have taken the risk of possible economic and military sanctions, according to the journalist. In Ankara, some also think, security risks against Turkey that can come from Russia and Syria may diminish after S-400 purchase is completed, Yetkin said.

However, there are still efforts Ankara aiming to solve the dispute, Yetkin said. Turkish Defence Minister said during a visit in Washington in April that Turkey was not an adversary of the United States and remained committed to NATO. Akar also said that the S-400 and F-35s would be deployed separately to ease down NATO allies' concerns that the Russian system would have implications for NATO interoperability and expose the F-35 fighter jets to possible Russian subterfuge.

Reminding that Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu also made similar statements in the past couple of weeks, Yetkin said that Ankara planned to solve the problem inside NATO instead of through bilateral negotiations with United States, adding that Washington might also bring the matter to NATO.

“In such a case, I mean if a technical commission is established within NATO, even if Russia delivers the S-400s, Turkey will not take them out of their box, in other words will not start using them till this work (of the commission) ends,” Yetkin said.

“If the commission detects points that will open holes in NATO’s defences, then this situation may give Erdoğan government an opportunity to reevaluate the issue without being seen in the public as ‘going back on its word’,” the journalist said.

Another outcome could be that the Commission will find a way for Turkey to use S-400s without risking NATO’s interoperability, he added.