

Question for written answer E-000995/2026

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 144

Nikolaos Anadiotis (NI)

Subject: Status of the British Sovereign Base Areas in Cyprus and security of an EU Member State

During the tensions in the Middle East, Greece and several other European states sent military forces to protect Cyprus, while the United Kingdom has been hesitant and slow to protect its bases¹².

Since 1960, Akrotiri and Dhekelia have been the sovereign territory of the United Kingdom within the Republic of Cyprus. The bases have been repeatedly described as a remnant of colonialism and recent international developments (see the decision of the International Court of Justice at The Hague on the Chagos Archipelago and the agreement for it to be returned to Mauritius) have brought the debate on the decolonisation of military territories back to the fore³.

According to Protocol No 3 of the Act concerning the conditions of accession of Cyprus to the EU, the bases have a special status to which EU law applies only to a limited extent⁴.

In view of the above, can the Vice-President / High Representative answer the following:

1. How does she assess the status of the British Sovereign Base Areas in Cyprus in relation to the sovereignty and security of a Member State?
2. Does she consider that the preservation of a third country's sovereign territory within a Member State is consistent with the principles of the Union and the modern decolonisation principles of international law?
3. Does she intend to consider initiatives to support Cyprus in a possible renegotiation of the status of the bases with the United Kingdom?

Submitted: 10.3.2026

¹ <https://www.philenews.com/kipros/article/1689318/inomeno-vasilio-stelni-polemiko-plio-stin-kipro-gia-iperaspisi-ton-vretanikon-vaseon>.

² <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-planning-send-warship-defend-cyprus-military-base-times-newspaper-says-2026-03-03>.

³ <https://www.reuters.com/article/world/world-court-britain-must-return-indian-ocean-islands-to-mauritius-idUSKCN1QE1WV/>.

⁴ http://data.europa.eu/eli/treaty/acc_2003/act_1/pro_3/sign.