

**Question for written answer E-000997/2026  
to the Commission**  
Rule 144  
**Nikolas Farantouris (The Left)**

**Subject:** Turkish F-16 fighter jets in the illegally occupied part of Cyprus

After an Iranian drone was recently shot down in the Republic of Cyprus, Member States such as Greece, France and Spain responded by sending combat aircraft and ships to Cyprus to bolster air defence. Türkiye, in turn, sent six F-16 fighter jets to the illegally occupied part of Cyprus<sup>12</sup>. This raises legitimate concerns about military escalation and constitutes a projection of power against two EU Member States. At the same time, the deployment of US-made aircraft on the territory of an unrecognised entity raises questions as to compliance with rules on the export of defence materials. This development comes at a time when the European Union has repeatedly called on Türkiye to align itself with the principles of good neighbourliness and with the EU's positions on the Eastern Mediterranean and the Cyprus problem<sup>3</sup>.

In light of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Is the transfer and deployment of military aircraft from Türkiye to an illegally occupied EU territory compatible with the principles of the European *acquis*?
2. What is its assessment of this specific action on the basis of the principle of good neighbourliness, which is a key prerequisite for the European Union's relations with Türkiye?
3. In the current context of escalation in the Eastern Mediterranean, does it consider that the political conditions for further deepening the customs union with Türkiye are being met?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.kathimerini.gr/politics/564115192/i-toyrkia-esteile-exi-f-16-sta-katechomena/>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fdd.org/analysis/2026/03/09/turkish-deployment-of-f-16s-in-occupied-portion-of-cyprus-raises-tensions-in-eastern-mediterranean/>.

<sup>3</sup> [https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/4bb4ddd1-4f20-4ee0-92db-926996ec8dd1\\_en?filename=t%C3%BCrkiye-report-2025.pdf](https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/4bb4ddd1-4f20-4ee0-92db-926996ec8dd1_en?filename=t%C3%BCrkiye-report-2025.pdf).