

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001383/24
to the Commission
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)
(18 July 2024)**

Subject: Addressing illegal Turkish actions aimed at boosting occupation regime in northern part of Cyprus

Regrettably, fifty years after the invasion and occupation of the northern part of the Republic of Cyprus, no efforts are being made to address Türkiye's moves to boost its puppet occupation regime.

If law and lawfulness are to be defended it is essential to undermine Turkish actions, marginalise the puppet occupation regime and put pressure on Türkiye to withdraw its troops, as required by the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Unfortunately, states such as Germany, France, the US, Russia, the UK, Switzerland and Australia have opened representation offices in the occupied territories of Cyprus.

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission not think that initiatives to transfer these liaison offices for interfacing with Cyprus' Turkish speaking inhabitants to the free territories of the Republic of Cyprus would go some way towards defending lawfulness and the interests of Cyprus and the EU?
2. Ahead of Erdoğan's new upcoming illegal visit to Cyprus, when does the Commission finally intend to impose the tough sanctions requested by the European Parliament in its joint motion for a resolution (procedure 2020/2844 (RSP))?
3. Does it not agree that the 'verbal condemnations' made by the Council and the Commission over the past five years concerning Türkiye's illegal presence in Cyprus have coincided with the unacceptable reinforcement of Türkiye's military presence in Cyprus and with third parties (namely the Organisation of Turkic States, Azerbaijan, Gambia and Pakistan) increasingly making moves towards recognising the occupied territories, ultimately resulting in the political/diplomatic credibility of the EU simply being diminished?

Submitted: 19.7.2024

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell i Fontelles on behalf of the European Commission
(20 September 2024)**

The EU is fully committed to a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus problem, within the United Nations (UN) framework, in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and in line with the principles on which the EU is founded and the *acquis*.

Türkiye is expected to actively support the negotiations on a fair, comprehensive and viable settlement of the Cyprus issue within the UN framework ⁽¹⁾.

The EU has repeatedly called for the speedy resumption of negotiations and expressed its readiness to play an active role in supporting all stages of the UN-led process, with all the appropriate means at its disposal.

The EU coordinates with its Member States and works closely with partner countries on the Cyprus issue. The EU does not recognise the so-called Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) and is bound by UN Security Council resolution 541 ⁽²⁾. The EU does not have information about any representation office of any Member States having been opened in the northern part of Cyprus.

Concerning restrictive measures, under Article 29 of the Treaty on European Union ⁽³⁾, it is strictly the prerogative of the Council of the EU, through its Member States, to take, with unanimity, decisions to adopt, renew or lift sanctions regimes.

The EU will continue to call on Türkiye to comply with its international obligations and with the EU values, as a candidate country for EU accession ⁽⁴⁾.

⁽¹⁾ https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/eb90aefd-897b-43e9-8373-bf59c239217f_en?filename=SWD_2023_696%20T%C3%BCrkiye%20report.pdf

⁽²⁾ UN Security Council resolutions on Northern Cyprus (UNSC Resolution No 541 of 18 November 1983 and UNSC Resolution No 550 of 11 May 1984).

⁽³⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/teu_2016/oj

⁽⁴⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/07/27/varosha-declaration-by-the-high-representative-on-behalf-of-the-european-union/>

The EU has actively and continuously expressed preoccupations to the members of the Organisation of Turkic States (OTS), at all levels ⁽⁵⁾. The EU continues to call upon OTS members not to implement any decision which would allow for the so-called, internationally not recognised, TRNC to acquire observer status in the OTS.

The EU remains fully committed to ensuring that the UN Security Council resolutions and generally recognised principles and norms of international law, particularly with respect to the sovereignty, independence and integrity of states, are fully upheld.

The EU remains committed to defending its interests and those of its Member States as well as to upholding regional stability ⁽⁶⁾.

⁽⁵⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/cyprus-statement-spokesperson-observer-status-turkish-cypriot-secessionist-entity-organisation_en?s=230

⁽⁶⁾ See footnote 1.