

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001394/24
to the Commission
Emmanouil Kefalogiannis (PPE)
(22 July 2024)**

Subject: Cyprus is the only EU Member State still under military occupation, 50 years on from the illegal Turkish invasion

This 20 July just passed marked 50 years since Türkiye's illegal military invasion of Cyprus, which led to the continued illegal occupation of the northern part of Cyprus.

For the past 50 years, the Republic of Cyprus — a European country and full EU member — has remained 'mutilated', with its northern section still under occupation by foreign troops and populated by Turkish settlers whose numbers are estimated at more than 120 000.

Greece and Cyprus are very much in favour of resuming dialogue, under the auspices of the United Nations, in order to find a viable and fair solution to the Cyprus issue with a view to its reunification, within the framework of a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation based on the Security Council resolutions, as opposed to the 'two-state' solution advocated by Türkiye, which would permanently split the island.

Fifty years after the illegal military invasion, Cyprus remains the only EU Member State with a section that is under occupation. Europe cannot be whole as long as Cyprus remains 'mutilated'.

In view of this:

What actions does the Commission plan to take to rekindle a truly constructive dialogue with a view to resolving the Cyprus issue and bringing about the reunification of Cyprus based on the UN resolutions and the *acquis communautaire*?

Submitted: 22.7.2024

**Answer given by Ms Ferreira on behalf of the European Commission
(10 October 2024)**

The Commission is fully committed to a comprehensive settlement of 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 Union is founded and the EU *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 appropriate means at its disposal.

The EU does not recognise the so-called 'Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus' and is bound by UN Security Council resolution 541 ⁽²⁾.

The EU remains fully committed to defending its interests and those of its Member States and 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 Commission's key instrument to support a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue is the EU Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community ⁽³⁾.

The overarching objective of the programme, since its creation in 2006, is to facilitate Cyprus' reunification. Since 2006, the EU has allocated over EUR 700 million to the programme.

Reunification can be also fostered through increased trade across the Green Line, as it not only contributes to economic integration but also builds trust. The Commission is responsible for the implementation of the Green Line Regulation ⁽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://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/support-turkish-cypriot-community/aid-programme-turkish-cypriot-community_en

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1481620173103&uri=CELEX:02004R0866-20150831>

While this trade stood at around EUR 4 to 5 million per year until 2019, it reached a record of EUR 16 million in 2023.
