

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001740/24
to the Council
Nikolaos Anadiotis (NI)
(17 September 2024)**

Subject: EU failure to act against the 50-year occupation of Cyprus

Ever since its illegal military invasion in 1974, Türkiye has been occupying more than 36% of the territory of Cyprus, in breach of every concept of law.

It now maintains some 35 000 soldiers in the Occupied Territories. Their pseudo-state, still with the support of Türkiye, has been steadily and methodically settling the Occupied Territories with Turks, continuing to grant them pseudo-nationality and thereby distorting the demographic character of the population.

At present, there are 160 000 illegal settlers living in the Occupied Territories.⁽¹⁾ The EU effectively leaves Türkiye unpunished for these crimes against a Member State, Cyprus, the whole of which (including the Occupied Territories) has been EU territory since it joined the Union.

In view of the above, can the Council answer the following:

1. What explanation is there for the impunity Türkiye enjoys in respect of its systematic crimes against a Member State, as opposed to the measures and sanctions imposed on Russia for its invasion of a non-Member State (Ukraine)?
2. Does the EU intend to impose matching sanctions on Türkiye for the above crimes?
3. By what specific measures does the EU plan to protect Cyprus against Turkish aggression?

Submitted: 17.9.2024

**Reply
(4 June 2025)**

In general, the EU position with regard to the Cyprus issue is firm and well-known. The Council, as recently as December 2024, has emphasised the EU's strategic interest in a stable and secure environment in the Eastern Mediterranean and in the development of a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship with Türkiye.

The Council has made clear its expectation that Türkiye commits unequivocally to good neighbourly relations and the peaceful settlement of disputes, having recourse, if necessary, to the International Court of Justice.

On 25 November 2024, the Council adopted Decision (CFSP) 2024/2936 reviewing Decision (CFSP) 2019/1894⁽¹⁾. The Council, as stated in all relevant Council conclusions, as well as in the Declaration of 21 September 2005, reiterated that Türkiye needs to fulfil its obligations under the Negotiating Framework, including the full, non-discriminatory implementation of the Additional Protocol to the Association Agreement towards all Member States.

Recognition of all EU Member States is essential. Türkiye must normalise its relations with the Republic of Cyprus and respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all EU Member States, as well as all their sovereign rights, in accordance with EU and international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The EU follows these issues closely and raises them with Türkiye at all levels, as appropriate.

The European Council has also repeatedly stated the determination of the European Union to use the instruments and options at its disposal to defend its interests and those of its Member States as well as to uphold regional stability.

¹ <https://mfa.gov.cy/turkish-military-invasion-and-occupation.html>

⁽¹⁾ OJ L, 2024/2936, 25.11.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2024/2936/oj>.

The Council and the European Council have repeatedly affirmed that the EU remains fully committed to a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem within the United Nations-agreed framework, in accordance with all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and in line with the principles on which the EU is founded and the *acquis*.

It remains crucial that Türkiye commits and actively contributes to such a peaceful settlement, including its external aspects. The EU continues to support the speedy resumption of negotiations and is ready to play an active role in supporting all stages of the United Nations-led process with all appropriate means at its disposal.

The Council has also repeatedly recalled the importance of the status of Varosha, condemned all Türkiye's unilateral actions that run contrary to UN Security Council resolutions, and reiterated its calls for their immediate reversal.

The Council further called on Türkiye to respect the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions, in particular Resolutions 541, 550, 789 and 1251.

The European Council, in its conclusions of April 2024, stated that the European Union attaches particular importance to resumption of and progress in the Cyprus settlement talks in further enhancing EU-Türkiye cooperation.
