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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(3.1.2025)

The Foreign Minister of Türkiye, Hakan Fidan, did not participate, on 29 August 2024, in the European Union's Foreign Affairs Council. He attended an informal reunion of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of EU Member States. This informal format, which does not count as a formal reunion of an EU institution, gives a good opportunity for exchanges with non-EU Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

The High Representative/Vice-President and European Commission's Joint Communication of November 2023¹ included the participation of the Turkish Foreign Minister to such an informal meeting as one of its recommendations. The European Council of April 2024 tasked Coreper to advance work on the recommendations of the Joint Communication in line with previous European Council conclusions².

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 EU acquis.

The EU has made repeatedly clear that it remains crucial that Türkiye commits and contributes to such a peaceful settlement, including its external aspects. Türkiye must normalise its relations with the Republic of Cyprus and respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all EU Member States³.

¹ <https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-11/Joint%20Communication%20to%20the%20European%20Council%20-%20State%20of%20play%20of%20EU-Turkiye%20political%2C%20economic%20and%20trade%20relations.pdf>

² <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/m5jlwe0p/euco-conclusions-20240417-18-en.pdf>

³ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-16707-2023-INIT/en/pdf>