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E-001799/2024

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell i Fontelles
on behalf of the European Commission
(12.11.2024)

The EU, as expressed repeatedly¹, recognises only the Republic of Cyprus as a subject of international law, in accordance with the respective United Nations Security Council Resolutions². The EU expects the same from the partners. This message has been clearly conveyed to the Azerbaijani authorities.

The EU has also actively and continuously expressed its preoccupations to the members of the Organisation of Turkic States (OTS), at all levels, and called upon OTS members not to implement any decision that would allow for the so-called, internationally not recognised, 'Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus' to acquire observer status in the OTS. This decision would be regrettable and in contradiction to the principle of territorial integrity and the Charter of the United Nations.

Human rights and the rule of law are central to the EU's engagement with Azerbaijan. The EU will continue to address these critical issues as part of the regular Human Rights Dialogue as well as in bilateral contacts. To this end, it is important to keep channels of communication open. The EU has reacted publicly to the increasing number of detentions of scholars, activists and journalists in the country in recent months³, and will continue to call on Azerbaijan to uphold its obligations under international law and release those imprisoned for exercising their fundamental rights.

¹ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/cyprus-statement-spokesperson-observer-status-turkish-cypriot-secessionist-entity-organisation_en; https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/ots-statement-high-representative-participation-prime-minister-orb%C3%A1n-informal-summit-organisation_en

² <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/58970?ln=en&v=pdf>;
<https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/67600?ln=en&v=pdf>

³ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/azerbaijan-statement-spokesperson-human-rights-situation_en;
https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/council-europe/1506th-meeting-committee-ministers-11-september-2024-eu-statement-exchange-views-european-committee_en?s=51