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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell i Fontelles
on behalf of the European Commission
(14.11.2024)

The EU has repeatedly made clear that it recognises only the Republic of Cyprus as a subject of international law, in accordance with the respective United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolutions¹. It has also actively expressed its concerns to the members of the Organisation of Turkic States (OTS), at all levels. The EU continues to call 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, pending ratification of the organisation's members, is regrettable and contradicting the fact that several members expressed strong support to the principle of territorial integrity and the UN Charter².

Regarding the participation of the Hungarian Prime Minister and of the Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs in the informal summit of the OTS in Shusha, Azerbaijan, this was done in their national capacity and not in Hungary's current role as rotating Presidency of the Council. Hungary has not received any mandate to advance the relations with the OTS on behalf of the EU³. Serving as the rotating presidency does not entail any external representation of the EU which is the responsibility of the President of the European Council (Article 15(6) of the Treaty on EU⁴) insofar as the representation concerns common foreign and security policy matters, without prejudice to the powers of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on those matters (Article 27(2) of the Treaty on EU) and the President of the Commission (Article 17(1) of the Treaty on EU) on matters outside the scope of the common foreign and security policy.

¹ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/cyprus-statement-spokesperson-observer-status-turkish-cypriot-secessionist-entity-organisation_en

² <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter>

³ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/ots-statement-high-representative-participation-prime-minister-orb%C3%A1n-informal-summit-organisation_en

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02016M%2FTXT-20240901>