

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001802/24
to the Commission
Michalis Hadjipantela (PPE)
(24 September 2024)**

Subject: Incident in the territory of the occupied Deryneia village

In September 2024, a Greek Cypriot was arrested by the authorities of the illegal, non-recognised, self-declared ‘Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus’ at the Deryneia checkpoint on accusations of espionage. The arrest came after a peaceful visit to the territory of the occupied Deryneia village on 31 August 2024. This is yet another flagrant violation of the rights of Greek Cypriots, who are being deprived of their fundamental rights of living freely and peacefully within the territory of their sovereign country.

This incident raises particular concern as it occurred at a checkpoint on a road that was developed as part of confidence-building measures between the two communities in Cyprus, funded through the EU’s Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support, whose mandate is to promote cooperation and facilitate the reunification process.

1. How does the Commission intend to respond to such incidents that undermine the efforts to foster peace and reunification?
2. What steps will be taken to address the misuse of EU-funded infrastructure for hostile actions towards EU citizens?
3. How will the Commission work to ensure that EU-funded projects are not jeopardised and politicised by the illegal regime?

Submitted: 24.9.2024

**Answer given by Ms Ferreira on behalf of the European Commission
(29 November 2024)**

The Commission is aware of the reports indicating that the Mayor of Paralimni-Deryneia and the Deputy Mayor of Deryneia have been denied entry by the Turkish Cypriot ‘administration’ into the areas of the Republic of Cyprus (RoC) where the RoC Government does not exercise effective control.

The crossing point in Deryneia was constructed with EU funds under the EU Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community (Council Regulation (EC) No 389/2006 ⁽¹⁾).

The crossing of people to and from the areas in which the RoC Government does not exercise effective control takes place under the rules of the Green Line Regulation (Council Regulation (EC) No 866/2004 ⁽²⁾).

The Commission supports the opening of crossing points because they allow movement of people, trade to take place, to establish and maintain contacts between the two communities, and to experience life across the island. Unjustified restrictions on crossings do not contribute to building confidence between the two communities.

All projects that the Commission funds through the Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community aim to facilitate Cyprus’ reunification.

The Commission continues to raise with both communities the importance of building trust and engaging in a dialogue to reach a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem within the United Nations framework.

The Commission also stresses the need to refrain from actions that raise tensions, notably at a time when the United Nations Secretary-General is trying to revitalise the settlement process.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32006R0389>

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02004R0866-20150831>