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

The Turkish Foreign Minister's invitation to the informal meeting of the EU Foreign Ministers on 29 August 2024 constitutes one of the recommendations suggested by the High representative/Vice-President and the Commission in the 29 November 2023 Joint Communication to the European Council about the state of play of EU-Türkiye political, economic and trade relations¹. The aim of the recommendations that feature in the Joint Communication is to energise key areas of EU-Türkiye relations. In April 2024, the European Council took note of the Joint Communication and tasked Coreper, respecting the competences of the relevant institutions, to advance work on the recommendations in line with previous European Council conclusions and in a phased, proportionate and reversible manner².

The European Council also made clear that Türkiye's own constructive engagement will be instrumental in advancing the various areas of cooperation identified in the Joint Communication and underlined that, in this regard, the EU attaches particular importance to resumption of and progress in the Cyprus settlement talks in further enhancing EU-Türkiye cooperation.

The EU remains fully committed to a comprehensive settlement of 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 *acquis*. The European Council welcomed the appointment of María Angela Holguín Cuéllar as the UN Secretary-General's Personal Envoy on Cyprus and supports the UN efforts for the resumption of settlement talks, including the informal trilateral meeting that took place on 15 October 2024 in New York.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/SPEECH_23_6190

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