

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001884/24
to the Commission
Loucas Furlas (PPE)
(30 September 2024)**

Subject: The European Union's double standard in relation to Ukraine and Cyprus

The European Union has shown a strong and immediate response to Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, imposing tough sanctions, providing military and humanitarian assistance and supporting the territorial integrity of the country.

However, it seems that this same determination and solidarity does not apply in relation to the Republic of Cyprus — a Member State of the European Union — part of which has been illegally occupied by Türkiye for 50 years. The EU has not imposed corresponding sanctions against Türkiye, nor has it exerted the same political pressure to end the occupation.

In view of this:

1. Given that both Ukraine and Cyprus are facing illegal military occupations, how does the Commission justify the double standard in its approach to the situations in the two countries?
2. Will the Commission review its policy and adopt a more assertive stance towards Türkiye with regard to the illegal occupation of Cyprus, imposing sanctions and other measures equivalent to those in place against Russia?

Submitted: 30.9.2024

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell i Fontelles on behalf of the European Commission
(11 November 2024)**

The EU has a strategic interest in a stable and secure environment in the Eastern Mediterranean and has called on Türkiye to fully respect international law, to de-escalate tensions in the interest of regional stability in the Eastern Mediterranean, and to promote good-neighbourly relations in a sustainable way ⁽¹⁾.

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*.

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 States ⁽²⁾.

The EU, including through the High Representative/Vice-President, continues to stress to Turkish officials the particular importance it attaches to resumption of and progress in the Cyprus settlement talks in further enhancing EU-Türkiye cooperation. This was emphasised in the European Council Conclusions of 17 April 2024 ⁽³⁾.

Decisions regarding restrictive measures against companies and individuals in a third country are strictly a prerogative of the Council of the EU and, as such, are taken exclusively, with unanimity, by Member States in the Council. Currently, there are restrictive measures in view of Türkiye's unauthorised drilling activities in the Eastern Mediterranean.

The Council established the restrictive measures framework on 11 November 2019, targeting natural and legal persons responsible for or involved in the unauthorised drilling activity of hydrocarbons in the Eastern Mediterranean.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/57442/2022-06-2324-euco-conclusions-en.pdf>

⁽²⁾ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-16707-2023-INIT/en/pdf>

⁽³⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/04/18/european-council-conclusions-on-ukraine-and-turkiye/>