

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002070/24
to the Commission
Geadis Geadis (ECR)
(15 October 2024)**

Subject: War crimes committed by the Turkish army in Cyprus

The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) has issued judgments recognising a number of violations of the European Convention on Human Rights committed by Türkiye in Cyprus, such as the illegal deprivation of life, the violation of the right to property, torture and inhuman treatment. The Turkish forces are therefore understood to have committed numerous crimes against Greek Cypriot civilians and prisoners of war during the country's invasion of Cyprus.

The discovery of mass graves confirms that many of the missing Greek Cypriots met a tragic end at the hands of the Turkish invaders. Photographic evidence has recently come to light depicting prisoners alive and unarmed in the captivity of Turkish soldiers. These prisoners' remains were later identified in mass graves, proving that they were executed in cold blood after being captured.

In light of the above:

1. What is the Commission's position on the crimes committed by the Turkish forces in Cyprus, an EU Member State?
2. Given that Türkiye has still not complied with the compensation obligations imposed on it 10 years ago, how does the Commission intend to hold the country to account for its actions?

Submitted: 15.10.2024

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(19 December 2024)**

The EU supports the work of bi-communal Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot scientific teams involved in all stages of the work of the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus (CMP).

These activities foster cooperation between the Cypriot communities, while providing relief to the families of missing persons as a crucial aspect of the overall efforts for reconciliation in the island.

Through the EU's Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community ⁽¹⁾, regular EU financial assistance contributes to the CMP's efforts to recover, identify, and return the remains of missing persons to their families.

Since 2006, the EU has been the largest provider of financial assistance to the CMP, which amounts to almost EUR 38.5 million, contributing to the identification of the remains of 1 051 persons from a list of 2 002 missing persons, which was agreed by the two communities in 2006 ⁽²⁾.

The European Court of Human Rights has ruled that the Turkish authorities had failed to conduct an effective investigation aimed at clarifying the whereabouts and fate of Greek Cypriot missing persons who disappeared in life-threatening circumstances ⁽³⁾.

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 ⁽⁴⁾ and in line with the principles on which the EU is founded and the *acquis*.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/support-turkish-cypriot-community/aid-programme-turkish-cypriot-community_en

⁽²⁾ <https://www.cmp-cyprus.org/statistics/>

⁽³⁾ Judgment of 10 May 2001, Case of Cyprus v. Turkey, <https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/Eng%23%7b%22sort%22:%5b%22kupdate%20Descending%22%5d,%22itemid%22:%5b%22001-59454%22%5d%7d?i=001-59454>

⁽⁴⁾ https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un_documents_type/security-council-resolutions/?ctype=Cyprus&cbtype=cypirus