(English version)

Question for written answer E-000068/25
to the Commission
Nikolaos Anadiotis (NI)
(10 January 2025)

Subject: Unfair trade practices of Türkiye at the expense of Cyprus and the EU single market

As it does not recognise Cyprus, Türkiye prohibits the direct invoicing of its products to Cyprus, with the unavoidable result that they have to be imported to Cyprus through a third-party European partner, and are invoiced accordingly. The situation is particularly problematic, especially after Brexit, in the case of car imports from the UK, because cars in Cyprus are right-hand drive.

Apart from anything else, this unjustifiable inequality, due to unfair Turkish practices, violates the principles of competition and the free market, resulting in higher prices for Cypriot consumers compared to other Europeans, while Türkiye, in contrast, continues to enjoy preferential trade benefits from the EU, of which Cyprus is a member.

In view of the above:

1. What measures does the Commission intend to take to ensure that Türkiye's unfair trade practices do not create further inequalities in the European single market and that the principle of free trade between Member States will not be violated in future?

2. Would the Commission consider imposing sanctions on Türkiye for its above-mentioned refusal to invoice its products directly to Cyprus, a member of the EU, given that it continues to enjoy preferential trade benefits from the EU?

Submitted: 10.1.2025

Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(2 April 2025)

The United Kingdom-Türkiye free trade agreement came into effect on 1 January 2021, coinciding with the day of Brexit.

The consecutive conclusions of the Council ([1]) and the European Council emphasised the EU's readiness to engage with Türkiye in areas of common interest in a phased, proportionate and reversible manner and recalled the need to address difficulties in the implementation of the Customs Union, including ensuring its effective application to all Member States.

The Commission reiterates the imperative to apply the Customs Union to Cyprus in all the high-level meetings with Türkiye. Most recently the issue was discussed at the EU-Türkiye Customs Union Joint Committee on 4 December 2024.

([1]) See for most recent conclusions: Council conclusions on Enlargement as approved by the Council on 17 December 2024, recitals 98 and 99.