

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000346/25
to the Commission
Barbara Bonte (P/E)
(27 January 2025)

Subject: Commission President's visit to Türkiye on 17 December 2024

On 17 December 2024, the President of the Commission visited the President of Türkiye. In the course of that visit, according to reports, Ms von der Leyen pledged a further one billion euros to Turkey for aid for Syrian refugees and discussed the issue of the customs union and visa waivers. Improvement of EU-Türkiye relations and cooperation on rebuilding Syria were also, seemingly, on the agenda. During the talks, according to reports, President Erdoğan also asked for the matter of 'bilateral' tensions regarding Greece and Cyprus not to be raised.

1. Did the Commission President raise with the Turkish President Türkiye's illegal occupation of northern Cyprus since 1974?
2. Did the Commission President make it clear to the Turkish President that she had not been given a mandate by the Member States to revive the accession talks?
3. What specific concessions did the President of Türkiye make to the President of the Commission?

Submitted: 27.1.2025

Answer given by Ms Kos on behalf of the European Commission
(14 April 2025)

On 17 December 2024, the President of the Commission held a meeting ⁽¹⁾ in Ankara with President Erdoğan as part of the re-engagement agenda with Türkiye as laid down in the November 2023 Joint Communication ⁽²⁾.

The December 2024 Council conclusions on Enlargement ⁽³⁾ highlighted the EU's strategic interest in a stable and secure environment in the Eastern Mediterranean and in the development of a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship with Türkiye.

The discussion in Ankara also addressed the Cyprus issue, with the President of the Commission reiterating EU's full commitment to a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem, within the United Nations agreed framework, and highlighting the importance the EU is attaching to resumption of and progress in the Cyprus settlement talks in further enhancing EU-Türkiye cooperation.

In line with the relevant Council conclusions ⁽⁴⁾, accession negotiations with Türkiye are at a standstill since 2018, and no further chapters can be considered for opening or closing.

⁽¹⁾ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/news/press-statement-president-von-der-leyen-president-turkiye-erdogan-2024-12-17_en

⁽²⁾ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/joint-communication-european-council-state-play-eu-turkiye-political-economic-and-trade-relations-0_en

⁽³⁾ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-16983-2024-INIT/en/pdf>

⁽⁴⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/35863/st10555-en18.pdf>