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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(23.4.2025)

The presence of the British troops in Cyprus is regulated by the 1960 Agreement¹ establishing the Republic of Cyprus concluded between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK), Greece, Türkiye of the one part and the Republic of Cyprus of the other part, and therefore not a subject of discussions between the EU and the UK.

The EU works closely with the UK on many issues and regularly exchanges with British officials, including on the operation of the Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs).

Following the UK's withdrawal, the EU has been protecting the interests of Cypriot citizens living and working in the SBAs. In this context, the Commission is in charge of the implementation of the Protocol No 3 on the Sovereign Base Areas of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Cyprus². The aim of the Protocol is to ensure that EU law, in the areas stipulated in Protocol 3 to Cyprus' Act of Accession to the EU, will continue to apply in the SBAs. The territory of the SBAs continues to be part of the customs territory of the EU.

The EU is 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 Union is founded and the EU *acquis*.

¹

<https://peacemaker.un.org/sites/default/files/document/files/2024/05/cy20gr20tr600816treaty20of20guarantee.pdf>

² https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/acc_2003/act_1/pro_3/sign/eng