

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000502/25
to the Commission
Michalis Hadjipantela (PPE)
(5 February 2025)**

Subject: Overcoming challenges to Cyprus's accession to the Schengen area

Cyprus has made significant progress towards accession to the Schengen area, including the successful integration into the Schengen information system (SIS) in 2023, while the first-time Schengen evaluation is currently ongoing. Schengen membership for Cyprus would strengthen EU integration, enhance security cooperation, increase tourism and boost economic growth.

However, challenges remain, particularly regarding the supervision and control of the Green Line separating the area controlled by the Republic of Cyprus from the area occupied by Türkiye.

Given these circumstances:

1. How does the Commission assess the progress made by the Republic of Cyprus in fulfilling the technical requirements of Schengen membership, and what key outstanding issues remain?
2. What measures can the Commission design and propose to help the Republic of Cyprus address the challenges related to the Green Line, in line with respecting the EU *acquis* and the non-recognition of the secessionist entity?
3. What financial support can the Commission provide to Cyprus, taking into account the support received by the latest countries to have joined Schengen, to facilitate its accession to the Schengen area?

Submitted: 5.2.2025

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(16 April 2025)**

Already since its accession to the EU, Cyprus has been bound by the Schengen rules. Its gradual integration into the Schengen area without internal frontiers, culminating in a Council decision on lifting checks at the internal borders, is subject to a positive Schengen evaluation ⁽¹⁾ and a unanimous decision of the Council.

Cyprus' first-time evaluation is ongoing, and the Commission is closely monitoring the progress made by Cyprus in fulfilling the technical Schengen requirements.

The Commission is aware that Cyprus' integration into the Schengen area requires due respect to its special situation and the framework applicable in line with Protocol 10 ⁽²⁾. The Commission stands ready to engage in a dialogue with Cyprus on how this can be achieved, including with regard to the Green Line.

The Commission already provides substantial financial support to Cyprus for border and migration management as well as police cooperation. During the 2021-2027 programming period, more than EUR 292 million ⁽³⁾ have been allocated to Cyprus under the Home Affairs Funds ⁽⁴⁾.

This includes measures sustaining the implementation of the Schengen requirements, such as EUR 9.9 million to support digital systems (e.g. the Schengen Information System), EUR 67.7 million for the construction of the new reception and pre-departure centres in Limnes, and EUR 30 million to enhance Cyprus' surveillance systems at the external sea border.

⁽¹⁾ In accordance with Regulation (EU) 2022/922 on the establishment and operation of an evaluation and monitoring mechanism to verify the application of the Schengen *acquis*, OJ L 160, 15.6.2022, p. 1-27.

⁽²⁾ Act concerning the conditions of accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic and the adjustments to the Treaties on which the European Union is founded — Protocol No 10 on Cyprus; OJ L 236, 23.9.2003, p. 955-955.

⁽³⁾ Under the 2021-2027 programming period, so far more than EUR 90 million have been allocated under the Asylum Migration and Integration Fund programme of Cyprus, EUR 80 million under the Border Management and Visa Policy Instrument programme and EUR 25.6 under the Internal Security Fund. On top of this support EUR 96.4 million have been provided under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund directly from the Commission (emergency assistance, union actions for Member States under pressure).

⁽⁴⁾ This includes the Border Management and Visa Instrument, the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the Internal Security Fund.