

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000892/25
to the Commission
Loucas Fourlas (PPE)
(3 March 2025)**

Subject: Urgent question regarding Pakistani Prime Minister's statement of support for the pseudo-state of northern Cyprus

In an utterly unacceptable statement made during a joint press conference with Turkish President Tayyip Erdoğan, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shehbaz Sharif, said that his country 'fully supports the cause of northern Cyprus and fully stands by Türkiye on this cause in an unwavering fashion'. Aside from being unacceptable and provocative, this statement is a cause for serious concern as it is indicative of Pakistan's potential intention to recognise the pseudo-state, in violation of international law, the relevant resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council and EU principles.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Is it aware of the contents of the statement in question?
2. What immediate steps will it take to prevent any move that would violate international law and undermine the sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus?
3. How, in the context of the EU's external relations, will the Commission remind Pakistan of the commitment to comply with international law and respect the territorial integrity of the EU's Member States?

We expect a swift response from the Commission, to ensure the protection of international law and prevent any faits accomplis that would harm European cohesion.

Submitted: 3.3.2025

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(25 April 2025)**

Pakistan's position on the internationally unrecognised so-called Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) is well known to the Commission and the European External Action Service, which have taken note of the statement in question and of the Joint Declaration of 13 February 2025 ⁽¹⁾.

Representatives of the EU Delegation to Pakistan and embassies of Member States as a rule refrain from participating in official events attended by representatives of the so-called TRNC representation office in Islamabad.

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 (UNSC) resolutions ⁽²⁾ and in line with the principles on which the EU is founded and the *acquis*.

At every reiterates this position to the Government of Pakistan and calls for respect of the territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus and UNSC resolutions.

Ahead of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation Council of Foreign Ministers meeting in July 2024, the EU Delegation to Pakistan carried out a demarche voicing opposition to the Turkish-sponsored Draft Resolution no 19/50.

It emphasised that references to the so-called Turkish Cypriot State were at odds with possible occasion, most recently at the Joint Commission meeting of November 2024, the EU fundamental principles of international law and the UN Charter ⁽³⁾.

⁽¹⁾ <https://mofa.gov.pk/press-releases/joint-declaration-of-the-7th-session-of-pakistan-turkiye-high-level-strategic-cooperation-council-further-deepening-diversifying-and-institutionalizing-the-strategic-partnership>

⁽²⁾ https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un_documents_type/security-council-resolutions/?ctype=Cyprus&cbtype=cyprus

⁽³⁾ <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter>