

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001498/25
to the Commission
Geadis Geadis (ECR)
(11 April 2025)**

Subject: Denunciation of statements by the President of Azerbaijan in support of the illegal separatist entity in Cyprus and the intention to recognise it

Against the backdrop of an international conference at ADA University in Baku, the President of Azerbaijan made public statements of support for the separatist formation in the occupied territories of the Republic of Cyprus — a Member State of the European Union. He explicitly expressed his intention to support the ‘independence’ of the so-called ‘Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus’ and the active cooperation of his country towards precisely this end.

This position violates the relevant UN Security Council resolutions (in particular Resolutions 541 and 550), international law and the EU's fundamental principles of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of its Member States.

In view of this:

1. How does the Commission assess the statements of the President of Azerbaijan in the light of international law and EU-Azerbaijan relations?
2. Does the Commission intend to raise this issue formally as a red line in the EU's political dialogue with Azerbaijan?
3. What measures does the Commission intend to put in place to protect the sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus and to prevent similar actions by non-EU countries in future?

Submitted: 11.4.2025

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

The High Representative/Vice-President of the Commission (HR/VP) has repeatedly refuted actions and statements aimed at upgrading the international status of the so-called, internationally not recognised, ‘Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus’, which undermine efforts of the United Nations Secretary General to create an environment conducive to settlement talks.

The EU recognises only the Republic of Cyprus as a subject of international law, in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions.

The EU expects the same from its partners, who need to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states within the framework of all international and regional fora, and to refrain from taking any steps that run contrary to this principle.

This message has been clearly conveyed to the Azerbaijani authorities and the EU will continue to raise it at all levels in its political dialogue with Azerbaijan, as it was the case during HR/VP visit to Baku on 25 April 2025.

The EU has monitored with concern developments since the Organisation of Turkic States (OTS) Summit in Samarkand, in November 2022, regarding the acceptance of the Turkish Cypriot Community as an observer to this organisation.

A statement of the European External Action Service Spokesperson was issued, expressing a clear position about these developments ⁽¹⁾. The EU has actively and continuously expressed these preoccupations to the members of the OTS, at all levels.

This has been done through HR/VP statements, lately in July (after the informal OTS Summit in Azerbaijan) ⁽²⁾ and November 2024 respectively ⁽³⁾.

The EU remains fully committed to ensuring that the above-mentioned UNSC resolutions and generally recognised principles and norms of international law, particularly with respect to the sovereignty, independence and integrity of states, are fully upheld.

⁽¹⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/cyprus-statement-spokesperson-observer-status-turkish-cypriot-secessionist-entity-organisation_en?s=230.

⁽²⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/node/443430_fr.

⁽³⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/ots-statement-hrvp-josep-borrell-attempts-legitimise-turkish-cypriot-secessionist-entity_en.