

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001827/25
to the Commission
Michalis Hadjipantela (PPE), Loucas Fourlas (PPE)
(6 May 2025)**

Subject: Türkiye's violation of Cyprus's sovereignty

The President of the European Commission, Ms von der Leyen, stated at the recent EPP conference in Valencia that, 'We do not invade our neighbours and we do not punish them', while stressing that, 'Europe respects international law and the integrity of borders'.

Türkiye continues to violate international law and the sovereignty of Cyprus, illegally maintaining troops in Cyprus since 1974, while systematically violating the exclusive economic zone of two EU Member States, Cyprus and Greece, refusing to recognise the sovereignty of the former.

Türkiye is taking illegal actions, with the aim of consolidating the occupation and partition of Cyprus. For example, during President Erdoğan's recent illegal visit on 3 May to the occupied territories, he 'inaugurated' a complex of buildings while reiterating his position on a 'two-state solution', ignoring the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the UN.

In view of the above:

1. Why is the Commission implementing a policy of double standards and not applying the same sanctions against Türkiye as it does in the case of Russia, offering financial support to the victim, while on the contrary offering a European upgrade to Türkiye?
2. What actions will the Commission take to force Türkiye to proceed with the implementation of its Cyprus obligations, ending the occupation of European territory?

Submitted: 6.5.2025

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

The EU is fully committed to a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem, within the United Nations (UN) agreed framework, in accordance with all relevant UN Security Council resolutions and in line with the principles on which the EU is founded and the *acquis*.

It remains crucial that Türkiye commits and actively contributes to such a peaceful settlement, including its external aspects. As per the conclusions of the Special European Council of 17-18 April 2024, the EU attaches particular importance to resumption of and progress in the Cyprus settlement talks in further enhancing EU-Türkiye cooperation ⁽¹⁾.

As per the Council conclusions on Enlargement of 2024, welcoming the recent steps taken by the UN Secretary-General towards a resumption of settlement talks, the EU remains ready to play an active role in supporting all stages of the UN-led process, with all appropriate means at its disposal ⁽²⁾. These messages are continuously communicated to the Turkish authorities.

Concerning restrictive measures, under Article 29 of the Treaty on European Union, it is strictly the prerogative of the Council of the EU, through its Member States, to take, with unanimity, decisions to adopt, renew or lift sanctions regimes.

The EU will continue to call on Türkiye to comply with its international obligations, and with the EU values, as a candidate country for EU accession.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/m5jlwe0p/euco-conclusions-20240417-18-en.pdf>.

⁽²⁾ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-16983-2024-INIT/en/pdf>.