

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002509/25
to the Commission
Emmanouil Kefalogiannis (PPE)
(23 June 2025)

Subject: Türkiye's attempt to instrumentalise the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation in violation of international law

Türkiye has attempted to instrumentalise the meeting of the Organisation for Islamic Cooperation in Istanbul, with decisions promoting Turkish positions in favour of a two-state solution in Cyprus but also of an alleged 'Turkish minority' in Thrace and a 'Turkish' community in the Dodecanese, which is at odds with the resolutions of the Security Council and the Lausanne Treaty, which defines the minority as religious.

Paragraph 24 of the Declaration of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers' states that they: 'Support the aspirations of the Muslim Turkish Cypriots to secure their inherent rights [...] and the importance of developing contacts [...] in order to overcome the unjust isolation imposed upon them', while paragraph 25 thereof, which deals with the Muslim minority of Thrace and the Muslims of the Dodecanese, states that they: 'Reiterate [their] support for the Turkish Muslim minority of Thrace and the Turkish Muslim population of the Dodecanese in Greece'.

A number of states, including Egypt and Saudi Arabia, have expressed their reservations with regard to the above, stressing that the resolution conveys a completely misleading and critical image of Greece.

What action does the Commission intend to take in response to the blatant violation by Türkiye — an EU candidate country — of international law, in particular of the Treaty of Lausanne and the Security Council resolutions on a solution to the Cyprus problem?

Submitted: 23.6.2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(1 August 2025)

The EU fully supports a comprehensive settlement in accordance with all United Nations Security Council resolutions and the principles on which the EU is founded and the EU *acquis*.

In this regard, the EU attaches particular importance to the resumption of and progress in the Cyprus settlement talks in further enhancing EU-Türkiye cooperation, as per the European Council conclusions of April 2024 ⁽¹⁾.

Additionally, the EU has clearly stressed in the 2024 Communication on EU enlargement policy that Türkiye is expected to unequivocally commit to good neighbourly relations, international agreements and to the principle of peaceful settlement of disputes ⁽²⁾.

As also outlined in the November 2023 Joint Communication on the state of play of EU-Türkiye political, economic and trade relations, this remains an essential requirement to ensure a stable and secure environment in the Eastern Mediterranean and the development of a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship between the EU and Türkiye ⁽³⁾.

In its December 2024 conclusions, the Council noted the improvements in relations between Türkiye and Greece and the de-escalation in the Eastern Mediterranean and stressed that both need to be sustained ⁽⁴⁾.

The EU remains committed to defending its interests and those of its Member States as well as to upholding regional stability.

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

⁽²⁾ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/7c67aed6-e7c2-47de-b3f8-b3edd26a3e26_en?filename=COM_2024_690_1_EN_ACT_part1_v11.pdf.

⁽³⁾ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/16679fa1-cb73-4481-bc02-e3620b8c6dd3_en?filename=Joint%20Communication%20to%20the%20European%20Council%20-%20State%20of%20play%20of%20EU-%20Türkiye%20political%20and%20economic%20and%20trade%20relations.pdf.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-16983-2024-INIT/en/pdf>.