

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003094/25
to the Commission
Michalis Hadjipantela (PPE)
(25 July 2025)

Subject: Türkiye's non-compliance with ECtHR judgments on Cyprus

Despite the 2001 European Court of Human Rights judgment in the case of Cyprus v. Turkey (25781/94), which found 14 violations of the European Convention, as well as the 2014 judgment awarding compensation of EUR 90 million (EUR 30 million for families of missing persons and EUR 60 million for those enclaved), Türkiye continues to fail to comply, refusing to compensate the 200 000 internally displaced persons from the occupied areas of Cyprus.

As a candidate country for accession to the European Union, Türkiye must comply with the judgments of the ECtHR in accordance with Article 46 of the ECHR; respect internationally recognised borders, the territorial integrity of countries, European values and human rights; and maintain good neighbourly relations.

In view of the above:

1. What specific measures does the Commission intend to put in place, through political dialogue with Türkiye, for it to comply with the judgments of the ECtHR on compensation?
2. How can the accession process be used to exert substantial pressure for the implementation of property restitution measures?
3. Given the funding of the Committee on Missing Persons (CMP) from European funds, how can more effective access of the Committee to areas and information be ensured, despite the continuing obstacles from the occupying authorities?

Submitted: 25.7.2025

Answer given by Ms Kos on behalf of the European Commission
(23 December 2025)

As a contracting party to the European Convention on Human Rights Türkiye has committed to abide by the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR).

The Commission has repeatedly called on Türkiye, including in the latest 2025 Enlargement Report ⁽¹⁾, and in its contacts with Turkish authorities, to implement judgments of the ECtHR as a matter of priority.

Respect for the rule of law and fundamental rights is also at the heart of the EU accession process. Accession negotiations with Türkiye have remained at a standstill since 2018, in line with the European Council conclusions ⁽²⁾ of 17 December 2024.

The underlying facts leading to this assessment still hold. As noted in the 2025 Enlargement report, serious concerns remain in the areas of fundamental rights and rule of law, including the independence of the judiciary.

With regard to the sensitive issue of missing persons, the Commission has been fully supportive of the efforts of the bi-communal Committee on Missing Persons ⁽³⁾ (CMP), which aims to recover, identify and return to their families the remains of people who went missing during the inter-communal fighting in 1963, 1964 and the events of 1974. EU funding of more than EUR 41 million since 2006 has covered around 80% of the CMP's budget.

It has allowed the committee to locate, exhume, identify and return to the families for dignified burial the remains of 1 055 persons from an official list of 2 002 missing persons. It is the CMP's role to be in contact with the two communities and relevant authorities, including those of Türkiye, to conduct investigations, identify burial sites, and carry out excavations. The Commission stands ready to support CMP's efforts whenever requested by the committee.

⁽¹⁾ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/turkiye-report-2025_en.

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

⁽³⁾ <https://www.cmp-cyprus.org/>.