

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003225/25
to the Commission
Afroditi Latinopoulou (Pfe)
(12 August 2025)**

Subject: Ethnic cohesion and foreign interventions in Thrace

The region of Thrace constitutes a nationally sensitive and geopolitically crucial part of the Greek territory and by extension of the European Union. However, in recent decades, there have been systematic efforts by external actors — particularly non-EU countries such as Türkiye — to influence the Muslim minority of the region, both politically and religiously, undermining cohesion and peace in the local community.

The operation of organisations and associations under the auspices or guidance of foreign consulates raises legitimate concerns regarding the sovereignty of EU Member States and European security as a whole.

Can the Commission answer the following:

1. Is the existence of external interventions in ethnically sensitive regions, such as Thrace, that endanger national cohesion and the peaceful coexistence of citizens recognised?
2. Is there a unified framework for monitoring and transparency regarding the activities of organisations operating under the influence of foreign powers in areas within the EU? If not, does the Commission intend to propose a relevant mechanism for the protection of Member States?
3. Does the Commission intend to strengthen targeted social inclusion and economic support programmes in the Thrace region, with respect for national sensitivities, in order to reduce the influence of external powers on the minority and to strengthen the region?

Submitted: 12.8.2025

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

The EU Security Union Strategy ⁽¹⁾ recognises ‘hybrid threats’ as including a mixture of coercive and subversive activity by state or non-state actors aimed at influencing public opinion and policy while remaining below the threshold of declared warfare.

This encompasses illicit streams of funding, political corruption and manipulation of diaspora networks to sway decision-making both inside and outside the EU.

The EU remains vigilant to any analogous attempts to influence through covert funding or corruption channels, including via foreign broadcasters, cultural agencies or financial institutions operating in Member States.

The EU has recurrently underlined its strategic interest in a stable and secure environment in the Eastern Mediterranean and in the development of a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship with Türkiye.

The EU continues to expect Türkiye to unequivocally commit to good neighbourly relations.

Cohesion Policy supports social inclusion and economic development in the Greek regions, including Eastern Macedonia and Thrace. Some EUR 639 million has been allocated to the regional programme for 2021-2027, aimed at fostering, amongst other things, entrepreneurship and competitiveness, enhancing education and social infrastructure, and promoting sustainable development. These investments are expected to strengthen the region and improve the quality of life for all.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2020)605 final.