

(English version)

Question for written answer E-004423/25
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Afroditi Latinopoulou (PfE)
(7 November 2025)

Subject: Continuing arbitrariness of the occupying regime in Cyprus — unlawful ‘arrest’ and withholding of identity cards of Greek Cypriot citizens

On 19 July 2025, five Greek Cypriot citizens were ‘arrested’ by the occupying authorities in the occupied territories of the Republic of Cyprus. Although the so-called ‘military court’ in occupied Nicosia recently found them innocent, the pseudo-state continues to withhold their identity cards, thus preventing their return to the free areas. ⁽¹⁾

The ‘court’ decision itself acknowledges that the allegations of the ‘prosecuting authority’ were not proven ‘beyond reasonable doubt’ and that there were serious shortcomings in the investigation, such as the absence of fingerprint checks or documented motives. Nevertheless, the continued withholding of identity cards constitutes an arbitrary and unlawful act by an unrecognised occupying regime, which systematically violates the human rights of Cypriot citizens of the European Union.

In view of the above, the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy is asked:

1. How does the EEAS assess the fact that the pseudo-state continues to carry out arbitrary detentions and violations of the rights of citizens of an EU Member State?
2. What actions does the EEAS intend to take to ensure the immediate return of the identity cards of the five Greek Cypriots and the full restoration of their rights?
3. Does the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy intend to raise this issue formally in contacts in official fora concerning the Cyprus problem?

Submitted: 7.11.2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(19 February 2026)

Since the detention of the five Greek Cypriot citizens on 19 July 2025, the EU services have been actively engaging with multiple actors on the ground, including the United Nations and have raised the issue with the Turkish Cypriot leadership. The EU services have closely monitored the situation and remained attentive to the well-being of the EU citizens.

The issue was raised in the context of the informal video conference of the Foreign Affairs Ministers in August 2025 and discussed with the authorities of the Republic of Cyprus directly at the level of the High Representative/Vice-President.

All five EU citizens have now returned to their homes.

¹ <https://www.pronews.gr/kypros/katexomena-athooi-oi-ellinokyprioi-pou-synelifthisan-ton-iouliao-den-tous-dinoun-tis-taytotites-tous/>.