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E-000242/2026

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(1.4.2026)

The High Representative/Vice-President is aware of the matter raised by the Honourable Member. The United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) is the mandated authority in the buffer zone, managing civilian activity in this zone. It conducted an investigation into the incident.

According to the latest report of the UN Secretary General on the UN Operation in Cyprus,¹ managing authorised and unauthorised civilian activity in the buffer zone to prevent possible civil-military tensions has increasingly taken outsized attention and resources from the mission. From 2 June to 15 December 2025 the mission held 35 outreach meetings with the local communities and published regular media campaigns to raise awareness on the parameters and conditions to enable safe farming in the buffer zone, and escorted farmers in some sensitive areas. In several instances, Turkish Forces reacted to Greek Cypriot hunters and farmers coming too close to the northern ceasefire line. In November 2025, Turkish Forces entered the buffer zone on five occasions to challenge the presence of Greek Cypriot farmers and to contest the delineation of the ceasefire line in Déneia, an area west of Nicosia. UNFICYP presence on the ground quickly defused the situations on all occasions.

¹ <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n25/359/79/pdf/n2535979.pdf>.