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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(16.4.2026)

The Communication on the EU's eastern regions bordering Russia, Belarus and Ukraine<sup>1</sup> addresses the needs of the regions most affected by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. These border regions face the greatest immediate pressures from the conflict, including hybrid threats such as cyber-attacks, sabotage, violation of airspace, disruptions to transport and energy systems, and challenges related to migration.

The Commission recognises the diverse challenges present in many regions along the EU's borders and has put in place funding tools and comprehensive strategies to address those challenges. Greece and Cyprus work together in Interreg cooperation programmes on a range of resilience actions. Moreover, the Pact for the Mediterranean<sup>2</sup> sets out a new ambitious strategy to strengthen EU relations with its Southern Mediterranean partners across its three pillars. This approach ensures policy coherence and allows for support tailored to the specific challenges in each region.

Security and stability in the Eastern Mediterranean are in the EU's strategic interest<sup>3</sup>. The EU remains determined to uphold regional stability and defend its interests and those of its Member States. Türkiye is a candidate country and an EU partner. In line with the EU's Strategic Compass<sup>4</sup>, the EU remains committed to continue cooperation in areas of common interest and develop a mutually beneficial partnership, based on an equal commitment on Türkiye's side to advance on a path of cooperation and de-escalation. A comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue would significantly contribute to stability and security in the Eastern Mediterranean. The EU remains fully committed to a settlement within the UN-agreed framework<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2026%3A82%3AFIN>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025JC0026&qid=1774450795971>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/m5jlwe0p/euco-conclusions-20240417-18-en.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-7371-2022-INIT/en/pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-16933-2025-INIT/en/pdf>.