

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000974/26
to the Commission
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)
(9 March 2026)**

Subject: Condemning the reinforcement of the Turkish occupation army in parts of the Republic of Cyprus

The Republic of Cyprus is the bastion of European security in the Eastern Mediterranean.

A number of EU Member States have deployed or are planning to deploy military forces, de facto implementing Article 42(7) TEU and confirming that the security of a Member State is a joint EU responsibility.

Defending the Republic of Cyprus against attacks or destabilising actions by extremist regimes in the region does not only concern Nicosia; it is a matter of collective European security.

Meanwhile, Türkiye continues to maintain tens of thousands of soldiers in the occupied territories of the Republic of Cyprus, i.e. on EU territory. Following the deployment of European forces in the Republic of Cyprus, Türkiye announced the deployment of additional military assets, including fighter jets and air defence systems. At the same time, the long-standing strategic military relationship between Türkiye and Iran, reflected in their numerous bilateral meetings and multilevel cooperation in recent years, cannot be understated.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Does it condemn the destabilising actions and plans of the Turkish-Iranian Islamist axis targeting the Republic of Cyprus?
2. Does it agree that the reinforced Turkish military presence came as a response to European support for the Republic of Cyprus?
3. How does it intend to ensure that the mutual defence clause set out in Article 42(7) TEU is applied effectively in order to protect the Republic of Cyprus against any threat to the sovereignty and sovereign rights of an EU Member State?

Submitted: 9.3.2026

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(26 May 2026)**

The EU stands firmly and unequivocally in support of any Member State in the face of any threat.

The EU strongly condemns the indiscriminate military strikes by Iran.

In the context of the overall security situation within the continent and its neighbourhood, discussions on implementing Article 42(7) of the Treaty on European Union are ongoing. Invocation of the mutual assistance clause is the sovereign prerogative of a Member State that is the victim of an armed aggression.

Moreover, it is the attacked Member State that communicates the type of assistance it requires in a given situation. This could include support at EU level, whether in terms of EU instruments and tools, or coordination support, if so requested.

In this context, there is a need to develop a common understanding of the article's implementation, specifically what could be done concretely in a situation where the article is invoked, in order for a Member State to ask for and receive help and what instruments and tools can be used in such an occasion, including at EU level, should the attacked Member State(s) so request.
