

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000975/26
to the Commission
Geadis Geadis (ECR)
(9 March 2026)**

Subject: Unacceptable deployment of Turkish fighter jets in the occupied territories of the Republic of Cyprus amid the Iranian threat

According to official announcements, on 8 March 2026 six Turkish F-16 fighter jets landed at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied territories of the Republic of Cyprus. The deployment and presence of armed fighter jets in the occupied territory of an EU Member State can be understood as an action of military escalation and a cause of instability in the Eastern Mediterranean. Moreover, this move can be seen as an act of hostility towards Israel and towards the forces operating in the wider region.

It is worth recalling that Türkiye has been repeatedly accused of lending political and diplomatic support to Iran's authoritarian regime, as well as of tolerating or indirectly supporting extremist Islamic terrorist organisations in the region.

This development may create operational difficulties for deterrence activities aimed at countering the threat posed by Iran, as well as for operations to counter terrorist organisations.

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

1. How does it assess the move in question in the light of security and stability in the Eastern Mediterranean?
2. Does it intend to call on Türkiye to withdraw the fighter jets from the occupied territory of the Republic of Cyprus and, if it refuses, how does the Commission intend to react?
3. What measures does it intend to take to ensure that such actions do not create operational problems for the European countries that have deployed forces in the region?

Submitted: 9.3.2026

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

The EU has a strategic interest in a secure and stable environment in the Eastern Mediterranean. A comprehensive settlement of the Republic of Cyprus issue would significantly contribute to sustainable stability and security in the region.

The EU continuously calls on Türkiye to normalise its relations with the Republic of Cyprus and respect the sovereignty, and territorial integrity of all Member States, as well as all their sovereign rights, in accordance with EU and international law.

The EU has welcomed the support provided by Member States through the deployment of military assets in the Eastern Mediterranean and in support of the Republic of Cyprus and remains determined to defend its interests and those of its Member States.
