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Answer given by Ms Kos
on behalf of the European Commission
(8.5.2026)

The EU has a strategic interest in a secure and stable environment in the Eastern Mediterranean. The Commission has repeatedly underlined, most recently in the 2025 Enlargement report¹, that Türkiye is expected to make an unequivocal commitment to good neighbourly relations, international agreements and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

A comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue would significantly contribute to sustainable stability and security in the region.

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

The Joint Communication on EU-Türkiye relations² of 2023 recommends resuming Council discussions on the modernisation of the Customs Union if Türkiye keeps addressing trade irritants and circumvention of EU sanctions. It further indicates that a broader environment conducive to the resumption of Cyprus settlement talks is needed to open negotiations for the modernisation of the Customs Union.

¹ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/4bb4ddd1-4f20-4ee0-92db-926996ec8dd1_en?filename=t.

² JOIN (2023) 50 final: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=JOIN:2023:0050:FIN>.