

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002946/26
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Yannis Maniatis (S&D)
(15 July 2026)

Subject: Construction of a natural gas pipeline between Türkiye and the occupied areas of Cyprus

An agreement to build a natural gas pipeline from Türkiye to the occupied areas of Cyprus has recently been announced. This pipeline will primarily transport natural gas from Türkiye to the occupied areas of Cyprus for the production of electricity, although it is being designed with two-way operation, allowing natural gas to flow from the occupied areas to Türkiye as well.

It should be noted that this is not the first such project in the works, as the construction of an undersea electricity interconnector between Türkiye and the occupied areas of Cyprus was announced in January 2026 — again in violation of the sovereign rights of the Republic of Cyprus.

Bearing in mind that such a project violates the sovereign rights of Cyprus and aims to make the occupied territories more dependent on Türkiye and to make the partition of Cyprus permanent, contrary to the UN Security Council resolutions on the reunification of the island, can the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy say:

1. How does she intend to defend Cyprus's sovereign rights against Turkish provocations?
2. Will she consider, at a future Council meeting, the imposition of targeted sanctions on natural and legal persons involved in the planning and construction of this pipeline?

Submitted: 15.7.2026

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(14 August 2026)

The EU remains committed to defending its interests and those of its Member States, as well as to upholding regional stability. In this context, respect for sovereign rights of all Member States remains high on the EU agenda and has been consistently endorsed by the Council and the European Council ⁽¹⁾.

This issue has been underlined in all relevant contacts with Turkish authorities, including during recent visits by the High Representative/Vice-President, the Commissioner for Enlargement and the Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration to Ankara ⁽²⁾.

The issue referred to in the question was raised by Cyprus on 13 July 2026 in the latest Foreign Affairs Council and the High Representative/Vice-President reiterated publicly that the EU expects Ankara to respect the sovereignty and sovereign rights of all Member States ⁽³⁾.

The EU remains fully committed to a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue, within the UN agreed framework, in accordance with all relevant UN Security Council resolutions and in line with the principles on which the EU is founded and the *acquis*. It remains crucial that Türkiye commits and actively contributes to such a peaceful settlement, including its external aspects.

Concerning restrictive measures, under Article 29 of the Treaty on European Union ⁽⁴⁾, it is strictly the prerogative of the Council of the EU, through its Member States, to take, with unanimity, decisions to adopt sanctions regimes.

⁽¹⁾ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-16983-2024-INIT/en/pdf>.

⁽²⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_26_1495.

⁽³⁾ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/foreign-affairs-council-remarks-high-representative-kaja-kallas-press-conference-2_en.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:12016M029>.