

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003262/26
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Geadis Geadis (ECR)
(12 August 2026)

Subject: Increasing number of illegal flights by Turkish fighter jets in Nicosia FIR

According to recent press reports, there has recently been an increased presence of Turkish F-16 fighter jets within the Nicosia Flight Information Region (FIR), particularly in areas near the Green Line ⁽¹⁾.

It should be recalled that in March 2026 Türkiye deployed six F-16 jets in the occupied territories, to which the EU turned a blind eye, displaying a provocatively unacceptable level of tolerance.

Increased military aviation activity raises legitimate security and stability concerns in the already tense region of the Middle East, but especially in the Eastern Mediterranean, and particularly as it originates from a candidate country and is directed towards a Member State of the European Union.

The Vice-President/High Representative is asked:

1. Is she aware of the increased number of illegal flights by Turkish fighter jets in the Nicosia FIR and what is her assessment of this development?
2. For how much longer does the EU intend to tolerate Türkiye's escalating military provocation against a Member State, without any specific consequences, and how does she justify further deepening EU-Türkiye relations in these circumstances?
3. What specific measures does she intend to take to safeguard the security of a Member State and prevent actions that undermine regional stability?

Submitted: 12.8.2026

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

The European Commission does not comment on media reports. It will assess Türkiye's approach on good neighbourly relations and regional cooperation in the context of the upcoming Enlargement Package, in October 2026.

The Commission's 2025 Türkiye report, published as part of the 2025 Enlargement Package, underlined that the flights of Turkish unmanned aerial vehicles in the flight information region and national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus continued unabated ⁽¹⁾.

In a broader context, the EU will continue to raise matters of concern through the appropriate political and diplomatic channels, to defend the interests of the EU and its Member States, and to uphold regional stability.

¹ https://www.sigmalive.com/news/local/1325378/kathimerino-fainomeno-ta-toyrkika-f-16-entos-fir-entatikopoiithikan-oi-ptiseis?fbclid=IwY2xjawTob6xwZG9mBWV4dG4DYWVtAzEwMABzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjIwMzcxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEemO0KLpESvXd_jdmiwEpnmeSQDtKNO64jUs29Z3kDwi3QvIb_mfBgUJoJvI_aem_hoMSJhc8jAIN3zMeut2DFg

⁽¹⁾ https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/4bb4ddd1-4f20-4ee0-92db-926996ec8dd1_en?filename=t%C3%BCrkiye-report-2025.pdf.