

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-003162/25
to the Commission
Fidias Panayiotou (NI)
(31 July 2025)**

Subject: Systemic shortcomings in the functioning of the rule of law in Cyprus — The case of Thanasis Nikolaou

In its recent report on the rule of law in Cyprus, the Commission acknowledges the delays and significant shortcomings in the functioning of justice on the island. The case of Mr Thanasis Nikolaou is a representative example, which attests to the systemic failures recorded in the report.

In view of the above, can the Commission say:

1. Does it consider that this case reflects a systemic failure of the rule of law in Cyprus, especially in the area of criminal justice?
2. What mechanisms and means does it intend to use to monitor the development of the case in order to ensure that the Republic of Cyprus fully complies with the fundamental values of the European Union?
3. Taking into account the recent official findings confirming that the death of Thanasis Nikolaou was caused by strangulation and not by suicide, what concrete measures has it taken or does it intend to take to ensure that the Republic of Cyprus fully investigates this murder?

Submitted: 31.7.2025

**Answer given by Mr McGrath on behalf of the European Commission
(1 September 2025)**

It is not the role of the Commission to intervene in individual procedures before national courts or to examine how individual cases are addressed by prosecutorial and judicial authorities of a Member State. The investigation and adjudication in specific cases comes under the responsibility of national authorities of each Member State.

Efficient, well-functioning and independent justice systems are a pivotal part of the rule of law. The Commission will continue monitoring significant developments concerning the rule of law in Cyprus in the context of the annual Rule of Law Report, and working with the Cypriot authorities to promote and enhance the rule of law.
