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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(17.2.2026)

Since the detention of the five Greek Cypriot citizens on 19 July 2025, the EU has been actively engaging with multiple actors on the ground, including the United Nations and has raised the issue with the Turkish Cypriot leadership. The EU has closely monitored the situation and remained attentive to the well-being of the EU citizens.

Since 2021, the EU has been providing financial support to human rights associations which, *inter alia*, monitors the human rights situation in the Turkish Cypriot community and provides legal support and assistance to victims. These associations have been actively monitoring and supporting the case of the five Greek Cypriot citizens since the outset of their detention and reported key developments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. In addition, the human rights associations met regularly with the detainees' families, providing them with legal information, accompanying them to hearings and offering on-site assistance and updates during court proceedings.

The issue was raised in the context of the informal video conference of the Foreign Affairs Ministers in August 2025 and discussed with the authorities of the Republic of Cyprus directly at the level of the High Representative/Vice-President.

All five EU citizens have now returned to their homes.