

(English version)

Priority question for written answer P-000872/26
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Afroditi Latinopoulou (PfE)
(3 March 2026)

Subject: Unprecedented attack on Cyprus — the country holding the presidency of the Council of the European Union — by Iran's Muslim regime

The indiscriminate use of force by Iran's theocratic regime has crossed the EU's borders, striking an air base in Cyprus, violating Cypriot airspace and endangering the lives of thousands of Greek Cypriots. Threats have also been made against Greece.

Given the above, can the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy say:

1. Why has she not yet activated the mutual defence clause (Article 42(7)) to protect Cyprus?
2. What additional measures does she intend to take to protect the airspace over the EU's borders in the future?
3. What action is she planning to take as a sign of unity and strength on the part of the EU as a whole in the face of an unprecedented attack on its territory at a time when its members are under threat?

Submitted: 3.3.2026

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

The EU takes any violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of its Member States with the utmost seriousness. If a Member State is the victim of armed aggression, it has the possibility to invoke Article 42(7) of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) ⁽¹⁾, which would lead to other Member States to provide aid and assist it.

This invocation of Article 42(7) TEU remains the sovereign prerogative of Member States. The Commission and High Representative/Vice-President stand ready to support and coordinate any request for assistance from a Member State.

The European Council has confirmed its determination to 'deliver at pace and at scale' to ensure Europe is equipped to act autonomously, in a coordinated way, and with a 360 degree approach against all threats.

The Security Action for Europe instrument spearheads the EU's response, with its EUR 150 billion defence loan scheme available for Member State to invest in priority capability areas including air defence.

The Preserving Peace Defence Readiness Roadmap 2030, presented in October 2025 ⁽²⁾, is another clear signal that the EU is strengthening its capabilities to deter and defend against aggression.

Nine capability coalitions, including one specifically for air and missile defence, have been stood up to close critical gaps through joint development and procurement.

It also proposes a set of European Readiness Flagships including the European Air Shield ⁽³⁾ and the European Drone Defence Initiative ⁽⁴⁾. The former project aims to develop an integrated, multi-layered air and missile defence shield, fully interoperable with NATO's Command and Control system.

The latter focuses on creating multi-layered, technologically advanced counter-drone detection, tracking and neutralisation capacities across Member States.

In February 2026, the Commission presented a dedicated Counter-Drone Action Plan ⁽⁵⁾ with a focus on enhanced preparedness, coordinated responses and industrial defence readiness.

⁽¹⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/teu_2008/art_42/oj/eng.

⁽²⁾ https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-defence-industry/readiness-roadmap-2030_en.

⁽³⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_26_812.

⁽⁴⁾ https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/commission-publishes-action-plan-drone-and-counter-drone-security-2026-02-11_en.

⁽⁵⁾ Idem.