

**Question for written answer E-003035/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Takis Hadjigeorgiou (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Provocative statements by Erdogan's adviser on Cyprus

Yigit Bulut, chief adviser to President Erdogan, stated on Turkish State television (TRT Haber, 26 April 2017) that 'Northern Cyprus', as he referred to the territories of Turkey-occupied Cyprus, 'is an overseas region of Turkey. It may have Turkish registration plates and a Turkish governor. It now has a "President", "Prime Minister", "Parliament" and ultimately Turkey is footing the bill'.

Bulut's statements have caused strong reactions from both the Government of Cyprus and also political parties/organisations in the Turkish Cypriot community, with statements being given by political leaders but also comments being posted on social media. Despite the strong reactions, the Bulut statements have yet to be revoked.

Taking into account that, given his position, Yigit Bulut expresses the positions of the Turkish Government and President Erdogan:

1. Does the Commission consider that statements of that kind in any way support the current process of resolving the Cyprus problem, or do they undermine any resolution prospects?
2. Does the Commission consider that Bulut's statements are perhaps consistent with the repeated statements by Turkish officials on Turkey's European course, and on the updating of the Customs Union?
3. Does the Commission intend to assess the above view and make the necessary recommendations to the Turkish Government?