

Question for written answer P-000267/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Eleni Theoharous (PPE)

Subject: Statements by Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Tuğrul Türkeş

On 12 January, **Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Tuğrul Türkeş** claimed that the occupied territories of the Republic of Cyprus, an EU Member State, were part of Turkey, but also an 'independent state.' This is what he said: 'My reference to the TRNC as a *mini-homeland* is interpreted as meaning that it is part of Turkey. Well, it is, but it is also a separate "State". How can this political and legal position taken by Turkey be squared with the counter-declaration of 21 September 2005 and Turkey's obligation to recognise the Republic of Cyprus?

How can the EU open chapters in the accession negotiations with Turkey, when that country is continuing to occupy Cyprus, while at the same time imposing sanctions on Russia because it has occupied the Crimea?