

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0007/04
by Philip Claeys (NI)
to the Commission

Subject: Accession of Cyprus, official languages

Cyprus has two official languages, Greek and Turkish. The Constitution also says that one of the two Vice-Presidents must be a Turkish Cypriot. Because of the Turkish occupation of the northern part of the island, however, these constitutional provisions are not in force. In the current circumstances, recognition of Turkish as an official language in the European Union could be interpreted as implicit recognition of the Turkish occupation of the northern part of Cyprus.

Might the accession of Cyprus on 1 May 2004 - if there is no change in the institutional and political situation - nonetheless mean that the Turkish will become an official language of the European Union? If so, on the basis of what arguments does the Commission arrive at this view?