

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0008/04  
by Philip Claeys (NI)  
to the Commission

Subject: Accession of Cyprus, immigration

Following the recent elections in the Turkish part of Cyprus, opposition parties are expressing concern about the massive registration of Turkey citizens on electoral rolls. There are very close links between 'President' Rauf Denktash (and his political supporters) and Turkey. This may lead to a whole range of problems after Cyprus's accession. For instance, there is a very real danger that the part of Cyprus occupied by Turkey will be exploited as a transit zone to allow Turks to emigrate to other EU Member States, circumventing the immigration ban applied by most Member States of the European Union. The government of Cyprus is, after all, encouraging the free movement of people throughout the whole island.

What measures is the Commission considering to tackle this potential problem? Have discussions already taken place with the authorities in Cyprus on this matter?