

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0833/07
by Adamos Adamou (GUE/NGL)
to the Commission

Subject: Statement by Commissioner Jan Figel at a meeting of the European Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education on 29 January 2007

At a meeting of the European Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education on 29 January 2007, Commissioner J. Figel, responsible for education, training, culture and youth, was questioned by a Member of Parliament about the measures the Commission intended to take in order to help students studying at universities in 'northern Cyprus'. He replied that he would discuss the matter with Commissioner Olli Rehn.

Does the Commission recognise that education issues do not fall within the exclusive remit of the European Union, but are a matter for Member States?

Does the Commission recognise that the universities in question, in the Turkish-occupied part of Cyprus have been built without the consent of the legal owners of the land on which they stand?

Does the Commission recognise that it is one thing to support the Turkish Cypriot community by legal means - which is quite legitimate -, while it is quite another to do so due to the political ambitions of third parties (Turkey) to have the illegal 'TRNC' recognised, in breach of the financial regulation regarding aid for the Turkish Cypriot community?

Does the Commission agree that its actions must be in line with international law and that they must consequently not be construed as granting recognition to any public authority other than the Government of the Republic of Cyprus in regions over which it does not exercise effective control?