

WRITTEN QUESTION E-5428/07

by Carl Lang (ITS) and Fernand Le Rachinel (ITS)
to the Commission

Subject: Progress towards settling the question of the Turkish occupation of northern Cyprus

The Republic of Cyprus was invaded by Turkey 33 years ago. Since then, almost 40% of its territory has been occupied and controlled by the self-styled Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This entity has only ever been recognised by Turkey, and has never been recognised by the international community.

Since then, the plundering of Greek Orthodox churches and monasteries, and the removal of the frescoes and religious objects they contained, have become increasingly frequent, as have restrictions on freedom of movement and expression and wide-ranging abuses of fundamental rights.

The Republic of Cyprus has been a member of the European Union since 2004.

Now, three years later, what diplomatic or other action is being taken by the Commission to evict a foreign army of occupation from European Union territory?

Does the Commission intend to take the necessary steps to ensure compliance with the EC Treaty and the principles it enshrines, namely respect for the fundamental rights of Union citizens (Article 2) and assisting 'the flowering of the cultures of the Member States, while respecting their national and regional diversity' (Article 151)?