

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4212/08

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to the Commission

Subject: Migration problem in Cyprus

During the visit of the LIBE delegation to Cyprus from 25 to 27 May the MEPs noted that a large proportion of the irregular immigrants who arrive in Cyprus come from the northern part of the divided island and that this phenomenon is notably increasing.

As the whole of the territory of Cyprus is part of the European Union, and as the Government of the Republic does not exercise effective control in the northern part of the island, which is under the military control and occupation of Turkey, what does the Commission intend to do to assist this small Member State in facing this peculiar problem, taking into consideration that we cannot address this question with the traditional instruments of external borders protection of the EU because of the particular situation of Cyprus?

What representations and/or steps does the Commission intend to take with the Government of Turkey, a candidate country for accession to the EU, for preventing illegal entry of immigrants to Cyprus and their subsequent channelling to the area effectively controlled by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus?