

WRITTEN QUESTION E-4214/09
by Athanasios Plevris (EFD)
to the Commission

Subject: Turkish war crimes in Cyprus

It is well known that during the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, Turkish soldiers, acting on orders from the Turkish State, committed large numbers of heinous crimes against Greek Cypriot civilians and captured soldiers. Mass graves of civilians slaughtered by the Turks are continually being discovered. Rape and slaughter were endemic and now, with DNA identification, it is clear that the 'disappeared' Greek Cypriots were slaughtered by the Turks. Recently the remains of military heroes were identified in a well: photographic evidence shows that they were prisoners, and, being unarmed prisoners, were thus executed in defiance of any notion of law or ethical behaviour. The bones of a family which remained in Kyreneia – which is still under the Turkish yoke – have also been identified: they were unable to flee because their two children were handicapped. The criminal Turkish State of course saw no reason to respect even the disabled.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

1. How does it view Turkish crimes in an EU Member State, namely Cyprus?
2. What actions does it intend to take?
3. Does it espouse the opinion expressed by the Foreign Minister of Sweden, which currently holds the EU Presidency, before the European Parliament's Committee on External Affairs and Defence on 21 July 2009, that it was Greece that was responsible for the Turkish invasion and Turkish crimes in Cyprus?