

**Question for written answer E-003530/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
Niki Tzavela (EFD)**

Subject: Statements by Bağış

In a recent statement, the Turkish Minister for EU Affairs, Egemen Bağış, offered Cyprus the EUR 5 billion it needs, on condition that Nicosia requests it from the occupying regime.

At the same time, he stated that Ankara would have no objection if Cyprus were to choose the Turkish pound as its currency. What he actually said was: 'This is peanuts for us. They can apply to use the EUR 5 billion loan that we shall give the IMF. We would have no objection if they wanted to use the Turkish pound as their currency, as does the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.'

The Turkish minister asked with a great deal of arrogance for pressure to be exerted on Nicosia to accept a solution to the Cyprus question, by which of course he meant the Turkish solution to the Cyprus question: he said that the EU needs to persuade the Greek Cypriots to accept a solution on the island and that the Greek Cypriots need to understand that they have no option other than to accept a solution, having seen in a very short space of time what it means to be up against the Turkish side.

Given that the above statements were made by the Turkish Minister for EU Affairs, the official responsible for Turkey's accession prospects, and that these statements insult not the Republic of Cyprus but the EU as a whole, will the Commission say:

- Does it intend to respond officially?