

**Question for written answer E-012897/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Sophocles Sophocleous (S&D)

Subject: An offensive and unacceptable statement by the Turkish Prime Minister

In a public statement following a conference in Poland, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said that 'there is no country called Cyprus. There is the local government of southern Cyprus, and there is northern Cyprus, with the green line between them'.

The Turkish Prime Minister's doubts over the existence of a Member State amount to a monumental challenge, insult and populist act, affecting not only Cyprus but also the EU itself and its institutions. An immediate and decisive response is ultimately required from the EU.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

1. Does it condemn these statements?
2. Does it intend to take the necessary steps vis-à-vis the Turkish government?
3. Does it believe that the behaviour of the Turkish Prime Minister befits the leader of a candidate country for EU membership?