

**Question for written answer E-013187/2013/rev.1  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Norbert Neuser (S&D)**

Subject: EU elections 2014 - participation of the Turkish Cypriot community

The UN (Annan) plan for Cyprus was rejected by the Greek Cypriots in 2004. Since then, the six seats in the European Parliament that were foreseen to accommodate both the Greek and the Turkish community have been filled by Greek Cypriots. Thus, the Turkish Cypriot community has never been represented in the European Parliament and, if there are no changes, it will not be represented there in the 2014-2019 term either. I understand the political difficulties of reunifying the island, and believe that, as unfortunate as it may be, a reunification is not likely to be achieved in the short term. That means, however, that the deficit of democratic representation of the Turkish Cypriot community at EU level will be perpetuated.

1. How does the Commission evaluate this deficit of democratic representation?
2. What is the Commission doing – other than working on the long-term goal of unifying the island – to remedy this deficit of democratic representation?
3. In the preparations for the upcoming 2014 European elections, is the Commission in contact with both communities, Greek and Turkish, to ensure the representation of both? If so, what is the state of play? If not, why not?
4. In the Commission's view, are there ways to overcome the technical difficulties for the Turkish Cypriot community to participate, whether actively and passively, on an equal footing with the Greek Cypriots in the next EU elections?