Until the end of 2021, the EU had allocated EUR 623 million to the aid programme for the Turkish Cypriot community (Council Regulation (EC) No 389/2006). This year’s envelope is EUR 33.4 million. The programme’s overarching objective is to facilitate the reunification of Cyprus by encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community with particular emphasis on the economic integration of the island, on improving contacts between the two communities and with the EU, and on preparation for the implementation of the acquis. The Commission has just published the most recent annual implementation report for the year 2021.

The Commission attaches great importance to the preservation of cultural heritage in Cyprus, which contributes to mutual understanding and reconciliation between the two communities. Under the aid programme, the EU has provided EUR 22 million since 2012 to support the work of the bi-communal Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage (TCCH). The TCCH has restored, conserved, structurally supported or physically protected, including with non-structural small-scale works, 102 cultural heritage sites across the island. They include 62 Orthodox, Maronite, Latin and Armenian churches in the northern part of Cyprus.

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