

ORAL QUESTION H-0884/01
for Question Time at the part-session in December 2001
pursuant to Rule 43 of the Rules of Procedure
by Christos Zacharakis
to the Commission

Subject: Turkish threats to annex northern Cyprus

On 4 November 2001, the Turkish Prime Minister, Mr Ecevit, reiterated the threat that Turkey would annex occupied northern Cyprus if Cyprus became a member of the EU. These statements were endorsed by the Turkish Foreign Minister and by the whole world of Turkish politics.

In the light of Parliament's recently adopted report on Turkey's progress towards accession, which was designed to send a message of encouragement from the EU to Turkey in the hope that it will meet the requirements and criteria of eligibility for accession to the EU, does the Commission consider that Turkey has appreciated the message contained in the Lamassoure report and shown signs of a positive response? Does it interpret Turkey's position as a refusal to comply with its obligations as an applicant country? Does the Commission intend to make clear to Turkey, in official form, that under these circumstances, the process of Turkey's accession to the EU will be suspended, bringing with it economic repercussions for relations between Turkey and the Union?

Tabled: 07.11.2001
el