

**Question for written answer E-002421/2024/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Costas Mavrides (S&D)

Subject: Obstruction of education at the only Greek school in occupied Rizokarpaso in Cyprus

Another serious issue has arisen as a result of the continued efforts by the occupation regime to obstruct education at the only Greek school in occupied Rizokarpaso in Cyprus. Specifically, the various illegal actions repeatedly undertaken by the occupying power have been hampering the school's educational work and staffing efforts. For example, it has been hindering the appointment of teachers, forbidding inspectors from the Cypriot Ministry of Education to visit the school, delaying or forbidding the transportation of books, and hampering building repairs and other types of support. The regime's end goal is to forcibly displace the remaining Greek Cypriot pupils who attend the school in Rizokarpaso to the free areas and expel the enclaved Greek Cypriots from the Occupied Territories.

The situation is triggering fears that the quality of the high school diploma at Rizokarpaso high school will drop because the occupying power is not allowing inspection visits and other forms of educational oversight. These actions are a flagrant violation of the Vienna Agreement and the binding Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

In light of the above, what is the Commission's position vis-à-vis this long-standing and persistent authoritarian policy of the occupying regime, which is to the detriment of the enclaved pupils in Rizokarpaso, and what specific steps does it intend to take straight away in order to address this serious educational issue, which concerns a fundamental human right of EU citizens?

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