

**Question for written answer E-001759/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Costas Mavrides (S&D)

Subject: Compliance with European law

The Republic of Cyprus promotes inter-communal contacts within the framework of international and European law, which includes the judgments of the European Courts and which other states, and especially EU Member States, have an obligation to respect. A public policy or action does not automatically become legal because it is declared to be part of a policy which is legal. This is the case with documents of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Nicosia, which state that 'the promotion of inter-communal cooperation in Cyprus' is one of its objectives.

These documents are in breach of the law on a number of counts, for instance:

- Turkish names are used for the occupied provinces of Cyprus, e.g. the Turkish-occupied province of Kyrenia is rendered as 'Girne';
- the call for funding is addressed indiscriminately to any organisation, meaning that some organisations may be linked to the occupying regime.

The binding decisions of the UN Security Council and the European Courts have judged the regime in the northern part of the Republic of Cyprus to be illegal and subordinate to Turkey. Recently (29 January 2019), the ECHR issued a ruling on the grounds that Turkey is 'an invader and occupying force in northern Cyprus where it has established an illegal entity' and that 'the Cypriot government is considered the only legitimate government'.

In view of the above, will the Commission say what immediate steps it will take to ensure that EU Member States act in compliance with international and European law?