



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations

A - STRATEGY AND TURKEY  
**A.5 – TURKEY**  
Head of Unit

Brussels, **04 AOUT 2017**

Dear Petitioner,

Thank you for your letter to President Juncker in which you share your concerns regarding the Republic of Cyprus and Turkey. President Juncker has asked me to reply.

First of all, let me confirm that the EU fully supports the current settlement process under the United Nations (UN) auspices between the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities. Negotiations aimed at a fair, comprehensive and viable settlement of the Cyprus issue within the UN framework, in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and in line with the principles on which the EU is founded.

A comprehensive settlement in Cyprus would be beneficial for wider security and stability in the region. Despite the outcome of the June 2017 Conference on Cyprus in Crans-Montana, the Commission remains fully committed to the Leader-led settlement process under United Nations auspices and ready to continue providing full support and all practical assistance both parties and the UN would find most useful.

Our policy towards the Turkish Cypriot community was set out by the General Affairs Council on 26 April 2004. It aims to put an end to the isolation of the Turkish Cypriot community and to facilitate the reunification of Cyprus by encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community.

The EU has underlined several times that Turkey needs to commit itself unequivocally to good neighbourly relations, international agreements, to avoid any kind of threat or action directed against an EU Member State and to commit to the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with the United Nations Charter, having recourse, if necessary, to the International Court of Justice. The Foreign Affairs Council of 14 November 2016 agreed that these concerns will continue to be expressed in an open and constructive way. As stated by the High Representative/Vice-President following the informal meeting of the 28 Foreign Ministers on 28 April 2017, the accession negotiations of Turkey to the European Union is not suspended, but under the currently prevailing circumstances, no new chapters are considered for opening.

The criteria for accession negotiations are clear, especially in the field of human rights, rule of law, democracy, fundamental freedoms and the respect of international law.

The EU remains committed to working together with a democratic, inclusive and stable Turkey to address our common challenges and for the mutual benefits of our longstanding cooperation in many important fields. We strongly believe that a Cyprus settlement which would benefit to both communities is key.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ferran', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Myriam Ferran