



Brussels, July 9, 2024

Honourable President Metsola,

July 20, 2024 marks the 50th anniversary of the Turkish invasion and occupation of Cyprus, an act that profoundly violates international law, including the Charter of the United Nations.

The 1974 illegal Turkish invasion resulted in 36% of Cypriot territory falling under de facto Turkish control. During the ethnic cleansing, many Cypriots were raped and killed, 200,000 Greek Cypriots were forced to flee south, abandon their homes and become refugees, and to this day, many are considered missing persons while a significant number of Greek Cypriots remain to this day trapped in the occupied territories.

Turkey totally violates and disregards the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council regarding the resolution of the Cyprus issue, and insists upon a two-state solution that has been condemned by the international community en masse. The only sustainable and viable solution to heal the wounds of the Cypriot people is the reunification of the island through dialogue and diplomacy on the basis of international law. We firmly believe that the Cypriot issue is, first and foremost, an international issue of invasion and occupation,

In view of the upcoming tragic anniversary, as head of the SYRIZA-PA delegation I would like to request that you formally condemn the Turkish invasion, express solidarity with the Cypriot people and reiterate Europe's support<sup>1</sup> for the reunification of Cyprus through a fair, comprehensive and viable settlement on the basis of a bi-communal, bi-zonal federation with a single international legal status, during the upcoming plenary in Strasbourg. Furthermore, I would like to request that the Cypriot flag be raised in all European Parliament buildings on the day of the anniversary, as an act of solidarity with the Cypriot people.

Sincerely,  
Kostas Arvanitis MEP, The Left  
Head of the SYRIZA-PA Delegation

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20201120IPR92130/meps-condemn-turkey-s-activities-in-varosha-cyprus-and-call-for-sanctions>