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Parliamentary question to the Chairperson-in-Office of the Committee of Ministers

Parliamentary questions

1. Question from Mr Nicos TORNARITIS, Cyprus, EPP/CD

In view of UN Secretary General's declared intention to convene an informal five-plus-United Nations (the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and the Turkish Cypriot communities, Greece, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the UN Secretary General) meeting, in New York, next month, for the resumption of talks on the Cyprus problem, we appeal to the international community, including the current German Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers, to support this new effort towards a settlement of a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation with political equality, as described in the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and on the basis of the agreed UN framework.

Regrettably, in stark contrast with UN resolutions and the said framework, Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot leader have been advocating for two separate States in Cyprus.

Mr Tornaritis, to ask the Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers:

How could you therefore contribute in securing a more active involvement of the European Union in the negotiating process, in accordance with the European acquis and principles and the agreed UN framework?

Reply by the Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers

The Council of Europe is not involved in the negotiations to settle the Cyprus issue. However, the situation in Cyprus is on the agenda of every meeting of the Ministers' Deputies. This provides a regular opportunity for delegations to provide information or share their assessment of the situation. The German Chairmanship welcomes the resumption of talks on the Cyprus problem under the aegis of the UN and strongly hopes that it will lead to a successful outcome.