

Brussels, 24 FEB. 2009  
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Dear Mr Neokleous,

Thank you very much for your letter of 5 February.

The Commission is aware of the importance of the issue of missing persons in Cyprus. For the families concerned, it is crucial to determine the fate of their loved ones. It follows from a judgement of the European Court of Human Rights (Cyprus v Turkey, 10 May 2001) that Turkey is obliged to ensure effective investigation aimed at clarifying the whereabouts and fate of Greek Cypriot missing persons who disappeared in life-threatening circumstances. It is urgent for Turkey to follow-up on this judgement rapidly and in full.

Concerning the specific case you are mentioning, the facts now need to be established. The Commission continues to support fully the work of the Committee on Missing Persons (CMP) in Cyprus.

The CMP, working under the auspices of the United Nations and representing both communities, has done very important work, in particular through the exhumation and identification programme. The EU has made a substantial financial contribution of € 1.5 million to support the work of the Committee.

Unfortunately, due to time constraints, I was not in a position to visit the CMP during my recent mission to Cyprus but hopefully will be able to do so on the occasion of one of my next missions.

Yours sincerely,



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