



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	OTS summit - Request by the Cypriot Delegation for an AOB item

Delegations will find in the annex a note from the Cypriot Delegation concerning the OTS summit. The topic will be included as an “Any other business” item on the agenda for the Foreign Affairs Council on 22 July 2024

AOB item requested by Cyprus for the FAC**(22 July 2024)**

Cyprus would like to raise under AOB the recent (5-6/7) extraordinary summit of the Organization of Turkic States in Shusha, Azerbaijan.

In the said extraordinary summit, the so-called “president” and “foreign minister” of the illegal secessionist entity in occupied Cyprus participated in meetings with the clear intent to be on an equal footing with the Members and the Observers of the Organization. Moreover, there was full use of “symbols” of the illegal secessionist entity, while the Declaration of the Summit refers to their participation as an observer to the OTS.

Such actions are in contravention of international law, UN Security Council Resolutions 541 (1983) and 550 (1984), and the EU position. They cannot be tolerated.

In this context, we are deeply disappointed and seriously concerned by the participation of one EU Member State in the Summit, a Member State that currently holds the Council’s rotating presidency. Such choice of action plays into Turkish efforts to upgrade the status of the illegal secessionist entity and/or to create such an impression.

Occurrences of this kind undermine the Union’s position and its principled stand in support of the full respect of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, an EU Member State. HRVP’s statement on the matter attests to that.

As we mark the 50th anniversary of the Turkish invasion and continuing occupation, the preceding actions also hinder efforts for the resumption of the negotiations for the comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem on the basis of the UN Security Council Resolutions.

Taken together with the visit to Moscow, this participation raises concerns regarding the respect for the principle of sincere cooperation and solidarity. We anticipate from all member states, and especially from the Council’s rotating presidency, to act in accordance with the political guidance provided by the **European Council**, thus safeguarding and projecting the EU’s unity on all matters.

Cyprus continues to support the strengthening of EU-Central Asia relations. The enhancement of EU-Central Asia relations is based on the continuing commitment to uphold the UN Charter and the fundamental principles of international law. In particular, the respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states, including within the framework of all international and regional fora, as stressed in the Joint Communiqué of the 19th EU-Central Asia ministerial Meeting (Luxemburg, 23 October 2023).
