



**European Committee
of the Regions**

The President

Brussels, *date of official registration*

PCab/ED/DL/pth – D/5746 (2024)

Andreas Vyras
President of the Union of Cyprus Municipalities
78, Rigainis Str.
1010 Nicosia
Cyprus

Dear President,

Thank you for reaching out to me on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the illegal Turkish invasion and occupation of Cyprus. The consequences of this tragic event are visible still today and we are all united in working towards the reunification of the island within the EU and in full solidarity with the people of Cyprus.

The European Committee of the Regions (CoR) remains fully committed to a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue, within the UN framework and in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. As you rightly pointed out, it repeatedly addresses the situation of Cyprus in its annual opinions on the EU enlargement policy, calling for Türkiye to respect the sovereignty of Cyprus and condemning Türkiye's unilateral steps in Varosha. More specifically, in its latest opinion on the Enlargement package for 2023, the CoR “calls for a bolder involvement of the EU to achieve a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue following the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and condemns Türkiye's unilateral steps in Varosha and invites Türkiye to make further progress towards normalising relations with the Republic of Cyprus, while stressing the need to avoid any further unilateral actions that could raise tensions and undermine prospects for a peaceful settlement”. The CoR also “calls on Türkiye to ensure the full and non-discriminatory implementation of the 2016 EU-Turkey Statement, including vis-à-vis the Republic of Cyprus”.

The CoR's opinions integrate the input and positions of CoR members, and I am also grateful for the contributions of the members of the Cypriot national delegation in this process. The CoR will continue to raise awareness about this issue.

In addition, CoR members also raise concerns linked to the situation in Cyprus directly with Turkish partners in the context of the CoR working group on the relations with Türkiye. We believe that this local political dialogue contributes to fostering better understanding, providing a space for mediation and negotiation ultimately and building peace.

Please be assured that the CoR will continue to support a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue by all means at its disposal.

Yours sincerely,

Vasco Alves Cordeiro