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Letter dated 2 November 2026 from the Permanent Representative of Türkiye to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 2 November 2026, addressed to you by Murat Soysal, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 39, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ahmet **Yıldız**
Permanent Representative

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 2 November 2026 from the Permanent Representative of Türkiye to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I am writing in response to the letter dated 29 September 2026, addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative in New York, that has been circulated as a document of the Security Council (A/81/406–S/2026/772) which, yet again, distorts the realities on the ground. In order to set the record straight, I would like to bring the following to your kind attention.

We categorically reject all unfounded allegations directed against Türkiye, as they are devoid of both historical and legal basis. I also would like to reiterate that the only occupation on the island is the Greek Cypriot occupation of the seat of the Government of the now-defunct 1960 "Republic of Cyprus". The Cyprus issue did not begin in 1974, but in 1963, when the Greek Cypriot side forcibly usurped the title of the now-defunct 1960 partnership "Republic of Cyprus" and, through the use of force, ousted the Turkish Cypriot partner from all organs of the State. Following the coup d'état in 1974, Guarantor Türkiye exercised its legitimate rights and fulfilled its obligations under the Treaty of Guarantee. The intervention by Guarantor Türkiye in 1974 restored peace and security on the island by bringing an end not only to the violence and massacres perpetrated against the Turkish Cypriot people, but also to similar atrocities committed by Greek Cypriot militias against their own people.

References made by the Greek Cypriot representative to "sovereignty" and "territorial integrity" completely disregard the sovereign equality rights of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and wrongfully attempt to confer the full legitimacy over the entire island upon an administration composed solely of the Greek Cypriot people. Such references, which are based on erroneous assumptions regarding the fundamental realities of the Cyprus issue, constitute a cornerstone of the Greek Cypriot administration's unfounded propaganda.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to remind the Greek Cypriot representative that their counterpart is, and has always been, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, not Türkiye. The Greek Cypriot representative's unfounded claims contained in the said letter go as far as denying the existence of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and ignoring the fact that today there exist two independent, self-governing States on the island of Cyprus, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within its respective territory.

Claims that all airports and seaports in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus are "closed" and that using them is "illegal" are totally unfounded and do not reflect the existing realities on the ground. There is no prohibition in this respect under international law and such claims of the Greek Cypriot administration constitute unjustified attempts to impose restrictions on the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus aimed at undermining their economic development, restricting their engagement with the international community and obstructing legitimate opportunities in the fields of trade, transportation, tourism and investment.

The Greek Cypriot administration's attempts to isolate the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus are totally incompatible with the call made by the then-Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, in his report to the Security Council dated 28 May 2004 (S/2004/437), where he clearly states that "the Turkish Cypriot vote has undone any rationale for pressuring and isolating them. I would hope that the members of the Council can give a strong lead to all States to cooperate both bilaterally and in international bodies, to eliminate unnecessary restrictions and barriers that have the effect of isolating the Turkish Cypriots and impeding their development." Acceding to the politically motivated and inequitable demands of the Greek Cypriot

administration to impose restrictions on the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus risks further complicating efforts to reach a just and viable agreement on the island. Furthermore, such an approach reinforces the perception that the Greek Cypriot administration exercises exclusive authority over the whole island, to the detriment of the inherent rights and sovereign equality of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, while inadvertently encouraging narratives that shift responsibility and direct unwarranted accusations towards Türkiye.

With regard to the claims of alleged violations of "Cyprus' national airspace", "international air traffic regulations in Cyprus' flight information region" and "the territorial waters of Cyprus", I wish to underline that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus are carried out with the full knowledge and permission of its Civil Aviation Authority, as the only competent body to provide air traffic and aeronautical information services within its own national airspace, and notices to airmen are issued in accordance with article 3 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention). The Greek Cypriot administration has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever regarding the territorial waters of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus or the flights within its sovereign airspace. In this respect, I would like to draw your kind attention to the violations of the national airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus between the dates of 1 July and 30 September 2026 by the Greek Cypriot administration and Greece (see enclosure 1). As mentioned above, the Civil Aviation Authority of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the only competent body to provide air traffic and aeronautical information services within its own national airspace, and these provocative acts by the Greek Cypriot administration and Greece constitute not only a blatant violation of the sovereignty of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, but also pose a serious threat to the safety of international civil aviation, putting the lives of civilian passengers at risk.

It should be also underlined that Ercan State Airport in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is in full conformity with all standards recommended by the International Civil Aviation Organization, and necessary upgrades have regularly been made to keep up with developing technology. Moreover, the number of air traffic controllers has been increased in accordance with the growing number of flights over the years and the Ercan Area Control Centre is in regular and close cooperation with the Ankara Area Control Centre in order to ensure the safe conduct of all flights in the region. In this regard, it must also be stressed that the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is committed to upholding the highest standards in the field of air navigation safety in full conformity with the Chicago Convention of 1944.

The Greek Cypriot representative, in the said letter, claims that "the continued violations and the persistent aggressive conduct of the 'occupying power' clearly undermine efforts to foster the conditions of trust necessary for the resumption of meaningful negotiations towards a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem and, at the same time, increase the sense of insecurity of all Cypriots." In this regard, your latest report on the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) (S/2026/550) must be recalled. In this report, it has been mentioned that "the [Greek Cypriot] National Guard maintained a total of 340 such [prefabricated concrete firing positions], 13 of which remain deep inside the buffer zone" and "similarly, the previously reported trench system comprising 11 concrete bunkers along the southern ceasefire line, installed by the [Greek Cypriot] National Guard in the middle of a civilian photovoltaic park located partly inside the buffer zone, has not been removed."

In the same report, UNFICYP also objects to the "Republic of Cyprus" authorities' "policy of requiring civilian buildings along the southern ceasefire line to incorporate military positions." It further states that "not only are such installations violations [by the Greek Cypriot side], but they also dangerously blur the distinction between civilian and military facilities." As can be seen from these paragraphs of the report, it is the Greek Cypriot administration that severely undermines the sense of security of Turkish Cypriot people and Greek Cypriot people by its military activities. In addition to its military violations of the buffer zone, recently, on 8 June 2026, the Greek Cypriot administration concluded a status-of-forces agreement with France aimed at facilitating cooperation between their armed forces, enabling the deployment of French troops in the Greek Cypriot administration, allowing French military personnel to be present on the island. Continued intensive military activities and military agreements undertaken by the Greek Cypriot administration, especially with non-guarantor states, are turning our island into a potential target and creating significant security risks. Please find enclosed a list of recent Greek Cypriot military activities, in response to the baseless accusations made by the Greek Cypriot representative against the Turkish Cypriot people and Türkiye regarding the alleged "strengthening of military infrastructure" and "persistent aggressive behaviour" (see enclosure 2).

As is evidently clear, after the Greek Cypriot leader Christodoulides assumed the leadership of the Greek Cypriot administration, the Greek Cypriot administration has significantly accelerated its military proliferation, investing billions of euros into military equipment and armaments, while actively establishing defence partnerships with multiple third countries. Moreover, the Greek Cypriot administration, by unilaterally opening our island to the military use of multiple states, has transformed the island into a military base serving the interests of global powers. Indeed, by using the United States, Israel and Iran war as a pretext, the Greek Cypriot administration has facilitated the deployment of military forces by multiple countries, including Greece, on and around the island to the detriment of delicate balances. Continued intensive armament activities and military cooperation undertaken by the Greek Cypriot administration is turning our island into a target that creates a major security risk.

Despite the realities on the ground and information known to everyone, the persistent failure to explicitly identify the responsible side reinforces the perception that the intransigence of the Greek Cypriot administration is being systematically obscured. As long as the international community refrains from clearly reflecting the reality on the ground, the Greek Cypriot administration will continue to pursue its long-standing hegemonic ambitions over the entire island, rather than engaging in genuine efforts towards a fair, lasting and sustainable agreement. If the international community is sincere in its pursuit of a sustainable and equitable agreement to the Cyprus issue, it should as a matter of principle duly acknowledge and affirm the inherent rights of the Turkish Cypriot people, foremost among them their sovereign equality.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its enclosures could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 39, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Murat **Soysal**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Enclosure 1

Violations of the airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (1 July–30 September 2026)

Date	*Local time*	*Altitude (feet)*	*Aircraft type*	*Aircraft call sign*	*Nationality*	*Coordinates (entry)*	*Coordinates (exit)*
14 July 2026	1830	12,000	EMB-135	CAF-001	Greek Cypriot administration	35˚06'34"N, 032˚47'50"E	35˚05'39"N, 032˚51'53"E
4 September 2026	2001	17,000	BEECH KING AIR-360	HAF-405	Greece	35˚06'07"N, 032˚48'28"E	35˚05'10"N, 032˚51'52"E
5 September 2026	0900	27,000	C-130	HAF-356K	Greece	35˚06'29"N, 032˚48'21"E	35˚05'34"N, 032˚52'17"E

Enclosure 2

Military activities of the Greek Cypriot Administration

The Greek Cypriot administration of Southern Cyprus continues to disrupt the atmosphere of stability and peace in and around the island and in the Eastern Mediterranean by increasing its unilateral, bilateral and multilateral military activities. Below are some recent examples that took place in the last year.

2026

– The Greek Cypriot defence budget, which is almost entirely spent on arms and armaments, is increasing each year. The 2025 defence expenditure budget was announced as €588.4 million, while the 2024 budget was €553.1 million. Total defence spending for 2026 is estimated at €628.1 million, of which €176.8 million has been allocated to armaments spending.

– The Greek Cypriot administration, by unilaterally opening our island as military bases for the military use of the United States, Israel and France, has effectively transformed the island into a military base serving the interests of global powers, becoming party to specific conflicts.

– By using the United States and Israel's operations against Iran as a pretext, the Greek Cypriot administration has facilitated the deployment of military forces by multiple countries, including Greece, on and around the island to the detriment of delicate balances. Military elements deployed to the Greek Cypriot administration under the pretext of the Iran war should not become permanent.

– Greece and the Greek Cypriot administration, as reported in the news, are advancing plans to transfer 90 upgraded Leopard tanks to Cyprus. The Greek Cypriot administration has expressed interest in acquiring four Greek Kentavros anti-drone defence systems.

– Greek Cypriot leader Nikos Christodoulides' visit to New Delhi in May 2026 resulted in the strengthening of bilateral strategic relations and reported arrangements concerning the procurement of BrahMos supersonic missiles with an estimated range of 650 km.

– Reports suggest that the Greek Cypriot administration is in talks with the Israeli government regarding the possible acquisition of Merkava MK 3 tanks from Israel.

– A status-of-forces agreement between the Greek Cypriot administration and France was signed in June 2026. The agreement includes provisions for the deployment of French military elements on the island of Cyprus; the enhancement of defence industrial cooperation between the Greek Cypriot administration and France; the sharing of military technologies; the conduct of joint military exercises; the intensification of high-level military dialogue; the expansion of military training activities; and the provision of equipment and logistical support to military facilities.

– Greek Cypriot administration officials have also announced that the Greek Cypriot administration will strengthen its position in the region through the modernization of key air and naval facilities supported by the United States and European Union funding. In this context, the Andreas Papandreou Air Base is set to be expanded to accommodate dozens of heavy transport aircraft, enabling faster refuelling and maintenance during large-scale military operations.

– Additionally, a new helipad suitable for heavy-lift helicopters, including the Boeing CH-47 Chinook, is being constructed at the Evangelos Florakis Naval Base, with funding from United States European Command, to facilitate evacuation operations from conflict zones. These projects also entail a significant expansion of military infrastructure.

– Furthermore, it was reported that the Greek Cypriot administration is in talks for the procurement of around 80 "Griffon" and 100 "Serval" armoured vehicles from France. The prospective agreement is said to fall under the European Union's Security Action for Europe (SAFE) programme, and the vehicles acquired from France could be equipped with the Akeron MP anti-tank system.

– In parallel, the Greek Cypriot administration is also reportedly having ongoing talks with France regarding a plan to modernize 80 out of the 150 armoured forward vehicle units currently in service with the Greek Cypriot National Guard.

– Greece, the Greek Cypriot administration and Israel have signed a comprehensive joint action plan for 2026 with a shared defence vision. The agreement covers areas such as electronic warfare, unmanned systems and advanced air defence technologies, with key components including joint exercises, joint training of special forces and the exchange of information and technology to counter current threats. For the first time, the agreement also incorporates experience-sharing on countering unmanned aerial vehicles and electronic warfare systems.

2026 joint military exercises

– The National Guard of the Greek Cypriot administration conducted a joint military training exercise with the French Armed Forces in April 2026, focused on "addressing modern threats, enhancing interoperability and improving operational readiness" through a combination of tactical drills and specialized instruction.

– From 19 to 23 March 2026, joint military amphibious training between the National Guard of the Greek Cypriot administration and the Armed Forces of France was conducted within the framework of the bilateral military cooperation programme, with the participation of Italy, Spain and the Netherlands. It included the exercise "THEMIS-01/26", direct fire exercises and training on addressing modern threats, aiming to enhance interoperability and operational readiness.

– Greek military officials announced that Greece, Israel and Cyprus will step up joint air and naval exercises in the Eastern Mediterranean in 2026, further deepening their defence cooperation.

July to December 2025

– During an event held at the military barracks in Kornos, the Greek Cypriot National Guard proudly displayed two defence initiatives. The presentations included the "Drone Eye" counter-drone system and the "Thiseas" electronic warfare project, which has a reported budget of €530,000. The projects reportedly involved collaboration with local companies and universities and funding from the Greek Cypriot Ministry of Defence, highlighting the ongoing Greek Cypriot investment in advanced defence and electronic warfare capabilities.

– The Greek Cypriot administration announced its plan to use the €1.1 billion loan from the European Union's SAFE programme over the next five years to significantly enhance its defence capabilities and strengthen its domestic defence industry.

– The Greek Cypriot administration was furthering its armament programme by expanding the list of supplier countries for weaponry. The Greek Cypriot authorities announced in the summer that, under the Excess Defence Articles programme, the "National Guard" had requested a long list of military equipment from the United States.

– It was also announced, in late August and early September that the "National Guard" had recently taken delivery of Barak MX, a sophisticated integrated air defence system from Israel, and had also acquired rocket launchers from Serbia.

– Under a regulation adopted by the Norwegian Parliament in 1959, the sale of arms to countries experiencing conflict or facing the risk of internal unrest was prohibited. Therefore, until recently, Norway had not issued export licenses for military-purpose defence products or dual-use materials destined for the Greek Cypriot administration. However, it was reported that, on 7 November 2025, Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide had personally informed Greek Cypriot leader Nikos Christodoulides of the decision to lift the aforementioned ban on behalf of the Norwegian Government.

– The Greek Cypriot administration also announced in the summer of 2025 that its proposed modernization of the military air base in Paphos through United States cooperation was under way.

– On 10 December 2025, the Greek Cypriot administration and the Republic of Serbia signed a status-of-forces agreement to enhance defence and security cooperation, including operational coordination and training initiatives.

– Greek Cypriot installation and/or activation of cameras along the border for surveillance and intelligence-gathering across the buffer zone and Turkish Cypriot border also continued in 2025.

– Since 2019, the Greek Cypriot administration has installed concrete military heavy weapons positions in the buffer zone.

July to December 2025 joint military exercises

– The Greek Cypriot administration hosted the military exercise PERSEAS 2025 (special operations/joint forces exercise), which was conducted between 30 November and 5 December 2025, involving Greek Cypriot National Guard commando units, naval and air commands and police special units, together with naval forces of Greece, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

– The Greek Cypriot administration co-hosted with France the military exercise EUNOMIA-6 2025 (air and naval exercise), which was conducted between 11 to 18 September 2025 and focused on maritime-air operations, maritime interdiction (boarding and searching vessels), search-and-rescue, asymmetric-warfare and cyber components.

– The NEMESIS 2025 military exercise was held in November in the so-called exclusive economic zone of the Greek Cypriot administration, with the participation of Greece, France, the United Kingdom, the United States, Israel, Italy and Egypt. The exercise simulated scenarios including terrorist attacks, firefighting, rescue operations, pollution control and other crisis-response tasks.