



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Cyprus Statement

Many constituents from the Cypriot community have in the past week raised concerns with me about recent developments in Cyprus and the drone attack on RAF Akrotiri that occurred on the 2nd March. The current conflict in the Middle East is worrying and constantly changing, and people are understandably worried for their and their family's safety in the region and Eastern Mediterranean. I want to reassure the community that I have raised your concerns at the highest levels.

Last week, I had a meeting with Stephen Doughty MP, Minister for Europe, to discuss the cooperation of the UK with Cyprus during this evolving situation. I have been assured that the UK's utmost priority is keeping Cyprus, active British personnel, their families and British nationals safe. The UK Government is in constant contact with President Christodoulides and top Cypriot officials in coordinating the defensive response.

I am pleased at the Prime Minister's announcement that the UK is bolstering its defence capabilities in the wake of the drone attack at Akrotiri, with Wildcat helicopters now already in Cyprus and I look forward to the arrival of the destroyer warship, HMS Dragon to Cyprus soon. I also welcome the presence of naval and air force capabilities of our allies including Greece, France, Italy, Germany, Spain and the Netherlands to Cyprus.

My office has received many enquiries about the safety of British nationals and the security of Cyprus in the face of the war in the Middle East. At this moment, flights continue to operate as normal from Paphos and Larnaca and British nationals in Cyprus have been advised by the FCDO to follow the instructions of local authorities.

If the situation changes, my office is ready to support any constituents who are in Cyprus and the wider region. For any enquiries, please contact bambos.charalambous.mp@parliament.uk

Bambos Charalambous