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Answer given by Ms Johansson
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.4.2021)

The Commission is aware of the situation at the Pournara First Reception centre, and has already shared with the Cypriot authorities its concerns about the overcrowding and living conditions that should be addressed without delay. Over the past years, the Commission has provided significant support to Cyprus to improve reception conditions in line with the EU law, both financially and operationally on the ground together with the relevant EU Agencies.

The Commission provided additional financial support to Cyprus in December 2020 by making available EUR 9.3 million under the Internal Security Fund (ISF) for the Pournara centre, covering costs for staff, equipment, infrastructure investments, operational costs and consumables. The relevant activities are at the beginning of their implementation. The management of funds and the overall responsibility for managing migration flows, for setting up a sustainable reception strategy and implementing effective asylum procedures, rests with the Cypriot authorities. The Commission closely monitors the use of EU funds in Cyprus in line with the applicable EU legislation¹ and assists the Cypriot authorities in ensuring the expedient and timely use of available funds, in line with EU Charter of Fundamental Rights obligations and the EU acquis.

¹ Notably the Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and Internal Security Fund legal basis: Fund Specific Regulations (EU) No 513/2014, No 515/2014 and No 516/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014; General Provisions Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014.