



European Network Against Racism

The voice of the anti-racist movement in Europe

**To: Mr Nikos Nouris
Minister of Interior,
Republic of Cyprus,
Ministry of Interior
1453, Nicosia**

Fax: ++357 22 676709

RE: *Your statements on ENAR on Radio Proto 1, 24 February 2020*

Dear Minister of Interior,

ENAR – the European Network Against Racism, an NGO financed by and working in close cooperation with the European Union over the last 20 years – is appalled by your statements on Radio Proto 1 on 24 February 2020, whereby you blatantly accused ENAR – and by extension KISA – of having “excellent relationship with the Muslim Brotherhood” and “unreserved support from Turkey”.

This is the first time that an EU Minister of Home Affairs in exercise has publicly used conspiracy theories with the view to undermine the work of organisations such as ENAR and KISA, one of its most prominent members, fighting against racism and related discriminations across the EU.

As a Minister of Home Affairs, you have direct access to reliable information that have long demonstrated that ENAR, and certainly KISA, have no relationship with Islamist organisations outside of the EU, nor receive support from states outside of the EU, the more so as these are organisations and states which are known for their non-democratic stances. ENAR and KISA are relentlessly advocating for holistic and uncompromising respect of human rights and dignity.

We demand a public apology from your side as well as a public retraction of your dangerous and baseless accusations, which are fueling and legitimising broader anti-migrant, anti-Islam and anti-Soros/Antisemitic narratives.

ENAR will nevertheless signal your speech to the EC as an example of deliberate attempts to stir hate against Human Rights Defenders and respectable organisations by high level public authorities, which might have dire consequences on our organisations, our staff and affiliates.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Privot
Director of ENAR

C/O Karen Taylor,
Chair of ENAR