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sustains a military occupation of another member state, and has done so for more than 30 years, can possibly be regarded as a legitimate candidate for membership of the European Union.

Thirty years ago, Turkey invaded and has continued to occupy almost 40% of the island of Cyprus, in the process making over 200,000 persons refugees in their own country. That military occupation continues to this day - just cross into the north of Cyprus one day and see how Cypriot villages have been transformed into vast Turkish military camps - see my Brief Modern History of Cyprus

www.exclusively-cyprus.com/cyprus/modernhistory.htm for more information. The puppet regime installed in Turkish occupied northern Cyprus allows their rebel state to remain an international refuge for those who would be extradited from any internationally recognised state - Asil Nadir was the most well known of those who escaped to, and were given refuge there. Until Turkey withdraws its troops and ends its occupation of Cyprus, it cannot become a legitimate candidate for EU entry.

Even if entry negotiations with Turkey did begin, having spent more than 30 years visiting and writing about Cyprus, I believe any Government of the Republic of Cyprus, a full member of both the EU and the Commonwealth, would have no option but to veto the accession of Turkey as long as any Turkish troops remained on the island.

It was because by saying "yes" in the referendum on the reunification of the island earlier this year, Greek Cypriots would have been voting for the legitimisation of the presence of

those same Turkish troops who invaded and divided their island in 1974. That a very large majority of them voted "no", despite their sincere wish for a resolution of the division - they require an end to the occupation first. Turkey can never become an EU member as long as Turkish troops continue to occupy and divide Cyprus.

DR ROGER R DAWSON,
Parsons Hill,
Hollesey,
Woodbridge.

Occupation of Cyprus rules Turkey out of EU

Sir, - I refer to the article (EADT (September 17) from the MEP Geoffrey Van Orden about why we should welcome the prospect of Turkey joining the EU.

He fails to mention the fundamental reason why there is no prospect whatsoever of Turkey joining the EU in present circumstances. No country that

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