

**Written Question No. 23.06.012.04.503 by MP Giorgos Koukoumas (Famagusta District), dated 19 June 2025, to the Minister of Justice and Public Order, Mr. Marios Hartsiotis:**

**"The Kurdish activist Kenan Ayaz, a recognized political refugee in the Republic of Cyprus, was extradited to Germany in 2023 pursuant to a European Arrest Warrant, in order to stand trial for alleged 'terrorist' acts — despite the fact that Cyprus does not list the PKK as a terrorist organization.**

**The Cypriot judiciary approved the extradition of Kenan Ayaz on the explicit condition that, in the event of a conviction in Germany, he would serve his sentence in Cyprus.**

**In September 2024, Kenan Ayaz was convicted by the Higher Regional Court of Hamburg and sentenced to 4 years and 3 months of imprisonment. In May 2025, his appeal was rejected by the Federal Court of Justice in Karlsruhe.**

**It is noted that his legal representatives have already submitted a request to the German prosecutorial authorities for the continuation of his sentence in the Republic of Cyprus.**

**Relevant provisions include those of Framework Decision 2008/909/JHA of the Council of 27 November 2008 on the application of the principle of mutual recognition to judgments imposing custodial sentences or measures involving deprivation of liberty for the purpose of their enforcement in the European Union, and Framework Decision 2002/584/JHA of the Council of 13 June 2002 on the European Arrest Warrant and the surrender procedures between Member States.**

**In light of the above, the Minister of Justice is requested to inform the House of Representatives of the actions he will take to ensure that Kenan Ayaz is transferred to Cyprus without further delay to serve the remainder of his sentence."**

**Response by the Minister of Justice and Public Order, Mr. Marios Hartsiotis, dated 21 July 2025:**

**"In reference to the above question, I inform you of the following:**

- **On 2 September 2024, the Higher Regional Court of Hamburg sentenced Mr. Ayaz to 4 years and 3 months of imprisonment. An appeal was filed before the Federal Court of Justice in Karlsruhe, which rejected it on 14 May 2025.**
- **By letter dated 30 May 2025, the lawyer of the convicted person informed the Ministry of Justice and Public Order that Mr. Kenan's legal representative in Germany had sent a letter to the German prosecutorial authorities informing them of Mr. Kenan's intention to serve the remainder of his sentence in the Republic of Cyprus.**

- Based on the provisions of Framework Decision 2008/909/JHA on the application of the principle of mutual recognition to custodial sentences or measures involving deprivation of liberty for enforcement within the EU, the Ministry, by letter dated 23 June 2025, requested the competent German authority to forward the judgment of the relevant German court, along with the prescribed Certificate.
- It is noted that in a letter dated 27 March 2023, the German Federal Prosecutor issued an assurance that the convicted person would be returned to Cyprus to serve his prison sentence, pursuant to Article 5(3) of Framework Decision 2002/584/JHA of the Council dated 13 June 2002. The execution of the European Arrest Warrant and the surrender of the accused were dependent on this condition.
- On 24 June 2025, the competent German authority informed that the Federal Prosecutor would take the necessary measures to transfer the convicted person to Cyprus, in accordance with the obligation arising from Article 5(3) of Framework Decision 2002/584/JHA. The official request from the German authority for Cyprus to take over the enforcement of the sentence is still under preparation.
- The Ministry, by email dated 16 July 2025, followed up with the German authority requesting an update on the developments of the matter.

**We remain at your disposal for any further information or documentation."**