Question for written answer E-001458/2024/rev.1
to the Commission
Rule 144
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)

Subject: Europe's contribution to the completion of a European project of general interest

On 7 June 2024, the Foreign Ministry and EChAETh [the Marine Research Licensing Committee], at the request of ADMIE [the Independent Power Transmission Operator], issued a licence for surveys by the Italian ship Ievoli Relume within the scope of Projects of Common Interest (PCIs).

The Ievoli Relume is a subcontractor of the French company Nexans, which was awarded the contract by the EU and ADMIE. The area of operation for the project lies clearly within the Greek EEZ based on the boundary delimitation between Greece and Egypt (2020), in accordance with UNCLOS provisions.

The crisis that developed between 22 and 23 July 2024 within the demarcated Greek EEZ, south of Kasos and Karpathos, in relation to the Greece-Cyprus electrical interconnection project, was the result of Turkish aggression.

In view of this:

1. As the laying of the electric cable that will link Greece and Cyprus is a PCI, what additional measures will the Commission take to ensure unimpeded implementation of the project?

2. Does it not consider that the presence of senior officials of the European Commission and members of the European Parliament – together with journalists – on the ships implementing the project would be a clear signal to Türkiye that Europe supports the project?

3. Given that the absence of US leadership until January 2025 greatly increases the risk of an incident resulting from Turkish provocations towards Greece and Cyprus, does the Commission plan to support the military presence of other Member States on Greek naval vessels protecting the PCI, until its completion, under the mutual defence clause (Article 42(7) TEU)?

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