

**Question for written answer E-002799/2024/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Emmanouil Kefalogiannis (PPE)

Subject: Challenging the Law of the Sea

Two years ago, in its resolution on the situation in Libya, the European Parliament urged the Libyan authorities to proceed with the cancellation of the memorandum of understanding between Türkiye and Libya, which violates the sovereign rights of third States, does not comply with the Law of the Sea and does not give rise to legal consequences for third countries.

In August, the Italian vessel Ievoli Relume undertook to survey part of the seabed believed to be a suitable location for an electricity cable between Cyprus and Crete, focusing on areas near the island of Kasos. This activity comes under the ‘freedom of the seas’ principle and is not to be confused with seabed hydrocarbon exploration, which is a sovereign right.

Türkiye took advantage of the occasion and deployed warships under the pretext of protecting its maritime boundaries with Libya against abuses. The country attempted to obstruct the surveys, adversely affecting the freedom of the seas. Türkiye’s tactics are deeply concerning. The interruption of activities for reasons not based on the Law of the Sea creates a harmful international precedent and we must understand the dangers involved in effectively challenging the Law of the Sea – and in particular when the challenge comes from a NATO member.

In view of the above:

1. What view does the Commission take of Türkiye’s actions, especially following the explicit condemnation of the Turkish-Libyan memorandum on EEZ delimitation?
2. Does the Commission not believe that Türkiye’s act of challenging the Law of the Sea strengthens other revisionist forces?

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