

**Question for written answer E-003457/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Nikolas Farantouris (S&D)

Subject: Infringements of fishing rules and sovereign rights in the Aegean by Turkish vessels and protection of Greek fishers

On 17 August 2026, Turkish fishing vessels were found to be sailing and, according to reports¹, fishing within the Alonnisos-Northern Sporades National Marine Park, near the island of Piperi. Piperi is an important habitat for the Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) and there is a special protection regime in place, which includes a ban on any vessel approaching within three nautical miles of the island. The incident prompted the coast guard to intervene, but by that point the Turkish vessels had already sailed away from the area².

This cannot be treated as an isolated incident. It adds to the repeated nuisance being caused by Turkish fishing vessels in the Aegean and to a broader Turkish practice aimed at creating faits accomplis and challenging Greek sovereign rights. At the same time, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing directly affects lawful fishers and marine ecosystems, as the Commission itself recognises.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. What specific measures does it intend to take to protect Greek fishers from repeated illegal activities by Turkish fishing vessels in the Aegean?
2. Does it intend to systematically include the issue of compliance with European fisheries rules and respect for sovereign rights in discussions on the deepening and modernisation of the EU-Türkiye customs union, given that the Commission is already considering further strengthening economic and trade relations with Türkiye?

Submitted: 2.9.2026

¹ <https://www.naftemporiki.gr/politics/2152322/toyrkika-alieytika-entopistikan-sto-thalassio-parko-alonnisoy/>.

² <https://www.kathimerini.gr/society/564416101/toyrkika-alieytika-sto-thalassio-parko-alonnisoy-ti-anaferei-to-limeniko/>.