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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Borrell i Fontelles
on behalf of the European Commission
(20.11.2024)

The EU has a strategic interest in a stable and secure environment in the Eastern Mediterranean and has called on Türkiye to fully respect international law, to de-escalate tensions in the interest of regional stability in the Eastern Mediterranean, and to promote good-neighbourly relations in a sustainable way[1]. The EU is re-engaging constructively with Türkiye in a phased, proportionate and reversible manner, subject to established conditionalities[2].

The EU has taken good note of the recent improvements in relations between Greece and Türkiye in the expectation that they will be sustainable[3]. The leaders of Greece and Türkiye have built on the positive momentum and activated multiple channels of communication. As of February 2023, violations of Greek airspace have diminished drastically and no flights over Greek inhabited areas have been reported.

The Commission, in its 2024 enlargement report on Türkiye, noted that the recent inclusion of the doctrine of 'Blue Homeland' (*Mavi Vatan*) in Turkish school textbooks is a cause for concern[4].

The EU has also made clear that Türkiye must respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all Member States over their territorial sea and airspace, as well as all their sovereign rights. The EU continues to expect Türkiye to unequivocally commit to the peaceful settlement of disputes, having recourse, if necessary, to the International Court of Justice.

[1] https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/57442/2022-06-2324-euco-conclusions-en.pdf
[2] https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/turkiye-report-2024_en
[3] https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-16707-2023-INIT/en/pdf
[4] https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/turkiye-report-2024_en