

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001810/24
to the Commission
Loucas Furlas (PPE)
(25 September 2024)**

Subject: Türkiye's actions in the Eastern Mediterranean and its failure to recognise the Republic of Cyprus

Despite the European Union's efforts to promote peace and stability in the Eastern Mediterranean region, Türkiye continues to take unilateral and provocative actions, such as drilling in the territorial waters the Republic of Cyprus, an EU Member State. Furthermore, Türkiye still refuses to recognise the Republic of Cyprus. This poses a major obstacle to stability and peaceful coexistence in the region.

In view of the above:

What concrete steps will the European Commission take to prevent Türkiye's violations in the Cypriot EEZ and in the Eastern Mediterranean more generally?

Submitted: 25.9.2024

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

In particular, Türkiye must respect the sovereignty of all Member States over their territorial sea and airspace as well as all their sovereign rights, including *inter alia* the right to explore and exploit natural resources in accordance with EU and international law, in particular the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ⁽²⁾.

According to the Commission 2023 annual report on Türkiye, there were no unauthorised drilling activities by Türkiye in the Eastern Mediterranean during the reporting period ⁽³⁾.

The EU remains committed to defending its interests and those of its Member States as well as to upholding regional stability.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/57442/2022-06-2324-euco-conclusions-en.pdf>

⁽²⁾ https://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/texts/unclos/unclos_e.pdf

⁽³⁾ https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/document/download/eb90aefd-897b-43e9-8373-bf59c239217f_en?filename=SWD_2023_696%20T%C3%BCrkiye%20report.pdf